



# DANE ARTS

## **Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs:** **2025 Cycle 1 Grants**

### **Arts in Education**

#### **American Players Theatre - 2025 Student Matinees & Workshops**

Award: \$1,661

APT will perform matinees of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Winter's Tale* and Patrick Barlow's *The 39 Steps*, for Dane County middle and high school students. Post-show discussions, study guides, and accompanying workshops with APT teaching artists will also be provided.

#### **Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. - ALL Outreach 2025-2026**

Award: \$1,665

The ALL Arts Outreach Program provides over 300 Dane County residents from historically marginalized groups with high quality arts education led by local Teaching Artists. Our programs support social-emotional growth, community development, increased cultural awareness and self-expression.

#### **Arts for All Wisconsin, Inc. - Youth Arts Education Program**

Award: \$1,663

AFA's Youth Arts Education Program provides dance, music, and visual art learning opportunities to Dane County youth with and without disclosed disabilities. With adaptive curricula, AFA will support 441 Dane County Youth in key academic, cognitive, and socioemotional learning goals.

#### **Children's Film Academy of Madison - *Wrestling, a short film. Funds for score and color***

Award: \$837

*Wrestling*, a short film, is a coming of age story told through the lens of the rise of girl's High School wrestling. Grace Statman wrestles with finding out who she is through school, peers, strong willed parents, religion, and sports. In a complex world, what will winning look like?

**Culture Trip LLC - *Identidades: Out of my Box / Fuera de mi Caja - A Bilingual Book on Identities***

Award: \$1,136

*Identidades: Out of my Box / Fuera de mi Caja* by Samira Álvarez Gretzinger celebrates the diverse identities of migrant families, challenging the limits of labels and boxes that try to define us. The book invites young readers to embrace their unique stories with pride, empathy, and self-expression.

**Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. - *Symphony Soup 2025***

Award: \$1,651

Symphony Soup is an annual concert that teaches the MSO's youngest audience of K-3rd graders about classical music by, as the name suggests, comparing the way ingredients are combined to make a delicious soup to the way instruments in an orchestra come together to create beautiful music.

**Monona Terrace Community Programs Inc - *Lakeside Kids 2025***

Award: \$731

Monona Terrace's Lakeside Kids program offers free, engaging cultural and arts-focused activities that bring visual and performing arts to children ages four and up, fostering creativity and accessibility for families of all income levels.

**Opera for the Young - *Countywide school tour of a new production of the opera The Elixir of Love" by Gaetano Donizetti."***

Award: \$1,658

Funding from Dane Arts will support the countywide school tour of OFTY's new production of *The Elixir of Love* by Donizetti. Teaching materials will include Tutorial Videos, a Student Handbook, a Teacher's Guide about opera and *The Elixir of Love*, and activities for classroom teachers.

**Prairie Music & Arts Inc - *GO-CART***

Award: \$1,620

GO-CART: Community Arts Recreation Trailer, a project co-created by Prairie Music & Arts (PMA) and Sun Prairie Parks, Recreation & Forestry (SPPRF), provides mobile arts-based and active-play experiences to youth in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, at city parks and community events when school is out.

**Simpson Street Free Press - *Writing for Publication: The Arts and Local History in Dane County***

Award: \$1,225

Simpson Street Free Press student reporters deliver article, features, and multi-media content focused on local history and the arts. Simpson Street Free Press operates newsrooms at multiple sites and provides high-quality academic support during after-school and summer hours.

## Dance

**Dance Wisconsin** - *Dance Wisconsin presents an evening of New Work, Generations".*"

Award: \$1,323

Dance Wisconsin's New Works production, Generations, will be an evening/afternoon of original choreography. Under the guidance of the Resident Choreographer (Millennial), the new generation (Z) of emerging choreographers will create original works in a style of their choice representing their Gen

**Isthmus Dance Collective Inc** - *Dance Experience Lab for Vibrant Exchange (DELVE)*

Award: \$1,567

DELVE provides a paid opportunity for choreographers and dancers to expand their boundaries, explore artistically, and foster new connections across genre and community. Six choreographers and casted dancers collaborate over the span of 8-12 weeks to develop new works to be premiered in the spring.

**Li Chiao-Ping Dance** - *Summer Exploratory Experimental Dance Intensive and Performance Festival 2025*

Award: \$1,031

The 2025 SEED Intensive & Performance Festival is an opportunity for people of every age and ability to join the Li Chiao-Ping Dance community

in week-long celebration & exploration of movement, breath, and creativity. Offerings include a wide variety of movement classes daily, discussions, workshop

**Madison Contemporary Dance** - *Community Movement Project*

Award: \$1,656

Community Movement Project unites studio-trained and street-style artists to create innovative dance works, interactive performances, and educational outreach. By bringing people together through movement in accessible community spaces, the project fosters connection, creativity, and engagement.

**UW Dance Exchange-UW Dance Department (UW Foundation)** - *UW Dance Exchange Teaching Artists*

Award: \$1,513

The UW Dance Exchange facilitates the development of high quality dance education programs in K12 schools and community programs through collaborative partnerships with teaching artists, community centers, dance organizations, and schools.

## Multidisciplinary

**African Association of Madison, Inc.** - *Under the theme Celebrating Africa Fest Silver Jubilee"*

Award: \$852

the African Association of Madison will produce AFRICA FEST 2025 at McPike Park on Saturday

**Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. - 10th Anniversary Literary Arts Program**

Award: \$1,567

Lit! 10th Anniversary Literary Arts celebrates writers and writing in Dane County through a year-round program featuring curated readings, workshops, write-ins, the Midwest Video Poetry Fest, and the ALL Review, with an emphasis on highlighting voices from historically marginalized communities.

**Creator's Cottage - Project Grant for Legacy Quilt Series with the Memory Collector's Storytelling Project**

Award: \$1,532

The Memory Collector's Storytelling Project - fighting Alzheimer's with Art, a program designed to delay the onset of dementia, in older women of color? Will be exhibiting their powerful and compelling Legacy and Story Quilts.

**Disability Pride Madison - 2025 Disability Pride Festival**

Award: \$1,596

An afternoon where disabled lives are celebrated. A place where children and adults with disabilities experience the stories of their lives. Ballroom dancing, aerial dancing, adaptive Piñatas, music and celebration. Over 50 disabled artists and crafts people as well as resources from businesses.

**Four Seasons Theatre - The 1919 Project: After the War""**

Award: \$1,080

The 1919 Project: After the War brings history and music together in an immersive, powerful multimedia performance. Using letters, diaries, articles, and photographs from over a century ago, this rock and roll history show connects the past with our world today.

**From The Front Row - From The Front Row - 2025 Season**

Award: \$1,066

Travel with us each episode to a new venue around Wisconsin to experience live concerts from a variety of talented performers. Join our loveable host Buzz as he interviews the artists and venue operators about the cultural impact and history of each performance space.

**Madison Children's Museum - Free Cultural Heritage Celebration Series**

Award: \$1,548

MCM seeks support for our Cultural Heritage Celebrations. Across four events in collaboration with local artists and partners, we will create unique activities celebrating the vibrant cultural traditions of our Asian American & Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American, and Black communities.

**Midwest Linen Revival - Field to Frock Festival 2025**

Award: \$1,371

MLR is presenting Field to Frock Festival to build community for the emerging flax fiber movement. Attendees will gain an appreciation for the connections between soil health and human health, traditional skills with future resilience, and individual crafting with community wellbeing.

**Midwest Mujeres, Inc.** - *Midwest Mujeres annual event of Stories and Culture, 2025, Voices and Dreams, Voces y Sueños*

Award: \$1,496

Yo Quiero Dinero: Voces y Sueños is a one-day matinee event at the MyArts Starlight Theater. It showcases the powerful stories of Latina caregivers and childcare workers who navigate the challenges of caring for others. We will also weave in Latino Mythical stories about family.

**Monroe Street Arts Center** - *Create and Connect*

Award: \$1,426

Create and Connect is a free community-based program designed to provide an opportunity for connection through creative expression. Targeted for adults, this program provides a supportive and creative environment where participants can explore a variety of art forms and mediums.

**Neighborhood House Community Center** - *Madison Good Neighbor Gathering*

Award: \$956

Madison Good Neighbor Gathering is an alcohol-free festival held in Brittingham Park every September. Hosted by the District 13 Neighborhoods this festival features a stage with live music and dance, bouncy castles, rock climbing, crafts, and information tables hosted by local organizations.

**Puppeteers of America - Puppets in The House Regional Festival** - *Puppets in the House Community Day*

Award: \$1,121

Community Day is a unique addition to the Puppets in the House regional Puppeteers of America festival. It is a free street-fair-style event to take advantage of the nationally-known artists teaching or performing at the festival and introduce Verona and surrounding communities to puppetry.

**Rachel Werner** - *Little Book Project: Edition #9*

Award: \$999

Produced in partnership with Arts for All Wisconsin, the ninth edition of The Little Book Project WI (?POWER?) will feature award-winning poems written by children and adults with disabilities ? each offering a unique lens through which to view the world.

**Sessions at McPike Park, Inc.** - *The Sessions in 2025: New Venue; Same Great Music, Dance, & Comedy!*

Award: \$1,140

Sessions will move our summer events to the fabulous Garver Feed Mill. Over a 4-day weekend, we will present 40 outstanding musical groups, dancers, and stand-up comedians. We'll be in the Chicory Tent, on the Patio, and in the Atrium. All free to the public, except Iris Dement, a ticketed show..

**The Hitterz Collective LLC - B.A.M Festival 2025: Tournament of Power**

Award: \$1,439

B.A.M. Festival 2025 is a three-day celebration of dance, art, and music, uniting emerging and established artists through electrifying battles, immersive showcases, and world-class workshops. This dynamic event fosters creativity, community, and cultural exchange, making it a must-attend experience

**UHUMAN - uHuman's Creative Recovery Podcast**

Award: \$1,552

uHuman's Creative Recovery Lab is a podcast hosted by Morgan D. Stewart about the creative ways Wisconsinites navigate addiction recovery. Show segments can be heard on WPR. Find full episodes, mental health & recovery resources, peer support, and an inspiring, creative community at UHUMAN.COM.

**Wisconsin Tibetan Association - Midwest Meet for Tibetan Cultural Preservation**

Award: \$1,461

The Wisconsin Tibetan Association is proud to present Tibetan cultural performances by the Tibetan Cultural Schools in Madison, Minnesota and Chicago.

**Wisconsin Union Theater - Madison Jazz Festival**

Award: \$1,579

Wisconsin Union Theater, in partnership with Madison Music Collective, Arts +Lit Lab, Madison Jazz Society, and more, presents the Madison Jazz Festival (MJF). This celebration highlights local and regional talent and international stars, featuring diverse performances and enrichment activities.

**Music**

**Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society - Fire from Heaven: 34th Summer Chamber Music Festival**

Award: \$1,530

BDDS creates unforgettable concert experiences by combining serious music

and serious fun. Exhilarating performances blend world-class artistry with bold repertoire in an intimate setting, fostering an atmosphere so people from all backgrounds experience the transformative power of chamber music.

**City of Middleton Community Development Authority (CDA) - Strollin' Middleton Jazz Festival 2025**

Award: \$1,584

Now in its 10th year, Strollin Middleton Jazz Festival presents two days of live jazz by top local and regional musicians across multiple venues, culminating in outdoor concerts at Stone Horse Green. This free event makes our community stronger and more vibrant and celebrates jazz's rich variety.

**con vivo!...music with life** - *con vivo!'s 22nd season spring concert*

Award: \$765

con vivo!...music with life presents Sounds of Spring, a performance of live chamber music on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church in Madison. The program includes music by Shostakovich and Vaughan Williams.

**Dane Dances** - *25830- DANE DANCES! 2025-01*

*DANE DANCES INC*

Award: \$1,096

Dane Dances! presents 2 bands & DJ each Friday evening in August on the rooftop of the Monona Terrace Convention Center one John Nolen Drive Madison. In 2025, 5 Friday evening events will be sponsored from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

**Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens, Inc.** - *Summer Sundays in the Garden 2025*

Award: \$1,542

A series of compact jazz concerts on alternating Sundays, June through August, presented outdoors in the inspiring natural surrounds of a jewelbox botanical garden, showcasing a wide variety of styles by the areas best local musicians, and kicking off with a grammy-award winning New York quartet.

**Girls Rock Camp Madison** - *Girls Rock Camp Madison*

Award: \$1,659

Girls Rock Camp is a one week day-camp for girls, transgender and gender non-conforming youth ages 8-18. Campers of all skill levels learn guitar, drums, keyboard, bass and vocals; form a band, write a song and perform their original composition at an end-of-camp showcase to hundreds of supporters.

**Grace Presents** - *Grace Presents 2025 Concert Series | May-December*

Award: \$811

Grace Presents features free, monthly concerts by an eclectic array of emerging and established local musicians. Concerts take place in the acoustically resonant nave of historic Grace Church on the Capitol Square.

**Handel Aria Competition** - *12th Annual Handel Aria Competition*

Award: \$1,413

The 12th annual Handel Aria Competition is for music lovers of all ages. Seven finalists will be performing in the final round of the Competition on August 8, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave. in Madison. Those unable to attend in person can watch a livestream of the event.

**Jazz at Five, Inc.** - *Continued Support for Jazz at Five*

Award: \$934

The Jazz at Five Summer Performance series begins in August! Join us on the Capitol Square and enjoy our free neighborhood concert series for five Wednesdays starting August 6th. Hosting a range of youth, local and national artists, come experience the sounds of summer in downtown Madison.

**Joseph Koykkar** - *The Madison New Music Ensemble Two Concerts in 2025-26*

Award: \$805

The Madison New Music Ensemble present two concerts featuring the works of prominent international/national contemporary concert music. The concerts will be held Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the First Unitarian Landmark Auditorium and Saturday, April, 4, 2026 at the Arts + Literature Laboratory.

**Just Bach Concerts Inc(official) or Just Bach** - *Just Bach Concerts Season 8*

Award: \$942

Just Bach Concerts presents the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries via free concerts throughout Madison and Dane County. Our musician?s sing and play using the performance techniques and instruments that were commonplace during Bach?s time almost 300 years ago.

**Kristin Redman** - *2025 Auricle New Music Series*

Award: \$1,561

Auricle is a concert series focusing on experimental music and sound art curated by Phil and Cricket Redman. Through a mix of free and ticketed concerts held from September 2025 through May 2026, Auricle will connect Dane County audiences with local, national, and international musical innovators.

**Kuumba Renaissance LTD** - *CodaMobile - Traveling Stage that Brings Live Music to Your Neighborhoods*

Award: \$944

CodaMobile, the traveling stage brings free live music performances to various locations across Dane County. The initiative features local musicians and provide a platform for diverse performances that foster community engagement, cultural exchange, and networking opportunities for all neighborhoods

**LunART, Inc.** - *LunART 2025 Festival*

Award: \$1,645

LunART is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of supporting, promoting, and celebrating women in the arts. The annual festival (May 27-June 1, 2025) intertwines contemporary music performance with visual art exhibits, workshops, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

**Madison Bach Musicians, Inc.** – *“Haydn, Boccherini, and CPE Bach--Orchestral Masterworks” with guest violinist Marc Destrubé: October 3 outreach at University of Wisconsin-Madison for Collegium and Symphony Orchestra students. October 4 & 5 concerts at Holy Wisdom Monastery.*

Award: \$1,443

Madison Bach Musicians will open its 22nd season on October 4 & 5 with concerts featuring orchestral music by Haydn, Boccherini, and C. P. E. Bach. Internationally renowned violinist Marc Destrube will lead the ensemble.

Outreach events for UW-Madison Collegium and orchestra students on October 3.



**Madison Choral Project** - *Madison Choral Project 2025*

Award: \$1,524

MCP will perform three full concerts including WI premieres: Johannes Brahms's German Requiem with chamber group Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society (arr. Farrington) (June); a commission by UW SOM Director Dan Cavanagh (Dec), and 25-min. work on Climate Change by a young composer Nathan Cline (March).

**Madison Music Collective** - *DIG JAZZ Series Fall 2025*

Award: \$1,492

The Dig Jazz Series presents music performed by local musicians in a variety of jazz styles. The Dig Jazz Series also seeks to attract new audiences to the realm of jazz and improvised music, while making the music accessible by presenting it in a variety of spaces.

**Madison Music Collective** - *Madison Jazz Festival Community Events 2025*

Award: \$1,694

The Madison Jazz Festival is a 10-day celebration of jazz, including a week of programs across the Greater Madison area. Events ranging from talks and film screenings to concerts, collaborative performances, and jazz jams occur daily from June 6 to 15.

**Madison Opera, Inc.** - *Madison Opera presents the world premiere of Everlasting Faint"*

Award: \$1,527

Madison Opera will present the world premiere of Everlasting Faint on February 13 and 15, 2026. Based on the true story of the Greenbrier Ghost, the opera has music by Wisconsin-based composer Scott Gendel and libretto by Sandra Flores-Strand.

**Madison Savoyards, Ltd.** - *"Iolanthe"*

Award: \$1,553

Madison Savoyards presents Gilbert & Sullivan's fairy opera, Iolanthe, centered on a feud between a band of sassy fairies and the British House of Lords. Singers, dancers, and orchestra take the stage of the Bartell Theater August 1-10, 2025 to perform one of the most beloved of the G&S repertoire.

**Madison Youth Choirs** - *Madison Youth Choirs' 2025 Spring Concert Series, "Music on the Mind"*

Award: \$1,640

On May 18, 2025 at the Verona Performing Arts Center, over 430 young singers of Madison Youth Choirs will present the spring concert series Music on the Mind, the culmination of a yearlong study of composition, featuring a vibrant selection of classical and contemporary choral repertoire.

**Middleton Community Orchestra** - *2025-2026: MCO's 16th season. Three concerts in October 2025, December 2025 and February 2026.*

Award: \$1,547

Performed by outstanding musicians from Dane County in collaboration with some of classical music's brightest local stars, MCO's 16th Anniversary concerts are affordable, accessible community events perfect for audiences of ALL ages.

**NewBridge Madison, Inc.** - *NewBridge Summer Concert Series*

Award: \$1,055

NewBridge Summer Concert Series - come celebrate the 30th year of this northside Madison tradition; enjoy six concerts by live bands in this beautiful outdoor setting, order from one of our food vendors or bring your own picnic, chairs and blankets and getting ready to dance!

**PEBOGA** - *Next Level Park St. Music & Community Fest*

Award: \$1,464

Next Level Showcase/Park St Music Fest is in its 7th year. The music festival is a free outdoor music event that serves as a platform for a cross section of music genres (i.e. Blues, R&B, Pop, Smooth Jazz, etc.) featuring primarily local artists.

**Salon Piano Series** - *Salon Piano Series 2025-2026 Season*

Award: \$1,529

Salon Piano Series presents world-class piano performances in intimate settings, showcasing exceptional artists and rare, historic instruments. Through concerts, masterclasses, and community outreach, SPS fosters a deep appreciation for the art of piano and its profound connection to audiences.

**Stoughton Chamber Music Festival** - *Stoughton Chamber Music Festival 2025*

Award: \$1,580

The Stoughton Chamber Music Festival returns for its 7th season, August 9-24, featuring a free children's concert and two main programs: The Blue, exploring nature's mysteries, and Sonder, celebrating individual and collective experiences.

**Stoughton Opera House Friends Association** - *Elevating Local Musicians: Opportunities at the Stoughton Opera House Ghost Light Lounge*

Award: \$1,539

Ghost Light Lounge at Stoughton Opera House offers local musicians opportunities to perform for attentive audiences, build confidence & grow professionally. Sharing nights with renowned acts fosters artistic development, strengthens Dane County's arts community, and connects people through live music.

**Suzuki Strings of Madison** - *Suzuki Strings of Madison--studying Music of Black Composers with Rachel Barton Pine*

Award: \$1,095

Suzuki Strings of Madison hosts with a mini recital-workshop featuring Rachel Barton Pine. Showcasing her Music by Black Composers series, the event highlights works by underrepresented composers, fosters diversity in classical music, and inspires students and educators.

**Timothy Russell** - *Synthfest: Madison 2026*

Award: \$1,488

Synthfest: Madison is an all day event celebrating electric audio. It features workshops on building electric instruments, creating both digital and analog electronic music, and a hands on synth gallery for exploration. An evening performance from the workshop presenters brings the fest to a close.

**Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center** - *Fete de Marquette*

Award: \$1,493

Fete de Marquette is a free admission, open to all, event that offers diverse music and dance performances from local, regional, national and international artists. Fete is a family-friendly event offering youth hands-on opportunities to perform and participate in activities all four days.

**Wisconsin Chamber Choir** - *Wisconsin Chamber presents Brahms & Friends*

Award: \$1,063

Join us for Brahms & Friends featuring Brahms's motet *Warum ist das Licht gegeben* and *Seven Songs*, op. 62. It includes works by his influences and followers, like Schütz, Schumanns, Taylor, Smyth, Higdon, and Ford. The DeForest Area High School choir will also perform under Ms. Daentl's direction.

**Theater**

**Capital City Theatre** - *Capital City Theatre Presents Stephen Sondheim's Assassins*

Award: \$1,439

A journey through the dark side of the American dream, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's Tony-winning musical *Assassins* explores the lives of nine men and women who either killed (or tried to kill) one of the Presidents of the United States.

**Fresco Opera Theatre** - *Garage Opera*

Award: \$1,077

Garage Opera transforms ordinary garages into extraordinary stages, bringing immersive and intimate opera performances directly to communities. This innovative series showcases emerging talents and classical works in a uniquely accessible format, fostering a new appreciation for opera.

**Summit Players Theatre** - *Summit Players Theatre Shakespeare in the State Parks Tour - Love's Labour's Lost*

Award: \$1,044

Summit Players Theatre presents its 2025 Shakespeare in the State Parks Tour. This tour will present free, public performances of Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* in eighteen parks across Wisconsin including Lake Kegonsa State Park and Blue Mound State Park in Dane County.

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation** - *Talking Spirits XXVII: Paths of Perseverance - WWII at 80*

Award: \$1,450

This award-winning living history program illuminates the lives of many prominent and lesser-known figures in Wisconsin history. This year's theme is Paths of Perseverance: WWII at 80. The year will focus on the determination of those who endured the hardships of war and how they persevered.

**Visual Arts**

**Creativa Collaborative** - *Threading Through Us*

Award: \$1,342

Threading Through Us brings four visual artists and a poet together, believing friendship and art can help us grow as a community towards beauty and hope. They bring their different art voices and mediums together to celebrate their shared story.

**Dakota Mace** - *2025 Native Art Market*

Award: \$1,657

On Friday, November 8, the 2025 Native Arts Market will celebrate and support local and regional Indigenous culture and heritage by presenting the work of more than 40 Native artists, along with performances, artist demonstrations, and workshops leading up to and during the market.

**Hannah Bennett** - *MADE: Contemporary Fiber Arts*

Award: \$1,544

Artist and curator Hannah O'Hare Bennett presents MADE: Contemporary Fiber Art, an exhibition of recent works by emerging fiber artists, along with a series of workshops and programs that explore the beauty, craft, and sustainability of the materials we hold closest to us.

**Madison Museum of Contemporary Art** - *Madison Museum of Contemporary Art: 2025 Wisconsin Triennial*

Award: \$1,563

The Wisconsin Triennial, a cornerstone of MMoCA's exhibition calendar, is a juried exhibition every three years, specially curated to reflect current directions in Wisconsin's visual arts scene. Each artist will exhibit either a single work or a small group of works in the Museum's Main Galleries.

**Madison Public Library Foundation** - *Madison Public Library Foundation 150th Anniversary Art Project*

Award: \$1,417

Local artist National Velvet will help the library celebrate its 150th anniversary with an exhibit and residency centered around non-edible cakes as vessels for storytelling. The residency will include an exhibit, public projects, artist-led workshops, and free open studio time for the community.

**Marta Hansen - Bang Bang" Music Video: a gun violence PSA "**

Award: \$770

Bang, Bang, is a song about school gun violence from a parent's perspective. The song is written and performed by Marta Hansen, an involved member of Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

**Mills Folly Microcinema - Mills Folly Microcinema 2025-2026**

Award: \$1,516

Mills Folly Microcinema is a monthly showcase for experimental film and video at the Arts + Literature Laboratory at 111 S. Livingston Street in Madison. Screenings will showcase films from the national film festival circuit, other regional microcinemas, and Dane County filmmakers and video artists.

**Misty Morning Productions - Safety - a film**

Award: \$1,431

Safety is a feature length dark comedy film drawing attention to the gaps in services and protections for women and children attempting to escape an abusive home life. It uses a combination of realism and fantasy to convey what is needed and what can be done to help people in these situations.

**Portraits by Chele Ramos - Shades of the Mind: A Solo Exhibition on Mental Health**

Award: \$1,518

This year-long project explores the connection between art and mental health through community workshops and a solo exhibition at Art Lit Lab. Combining self-reflection with creative expression, it aims to foster awareness, encourage dialogue, and inspire emotional healing through the power of art.

**Textile Arts Center of Madison, Inc. - 2025-26 Exhibition Programming at the Textile Arts Center of Madison**

Award: \$1,500

TAC's contemporary fiber art exhibitions feature a range of mediums and artist perspectives. 2025-2026 programming includes TAC's members show, a contemporary quilts exhibition, and a show of UW-Madison current students and recent alumni. Related events and workshops will accompany each exhibition.

**The Center for Black Excellence and Culture - Four Seasons: Adventures in Art**

Award: \$1,458

Four Seasons: Adventures in Art is a free quarterly art program for adults launching in 2025. The program aims to promote brain health through regular engagement with the visual arts. Presented by The Center for Black Excellence and Culture and African Americans Fighting Alzheimer's in Midlife.

**Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters - Marna Brauner & Hai Chi Jihn/Lillian Luft**  
(paired exhibitions)

Award: \$1,101

Artists Marna Brauner and Hai Chi Jihn create detailed, handcrafted work that references the female body, historic clothing, and the textile industry. Lillian Luft uses metalwork, furniture, and photos to explore the impact of the historic Mississippi River pearl button industry on river ecology.

**Capital Grants**

**Friends of Allen Centennial Gardens, Inc. - Summer Sundays: Amplification System**

Award: \$2,000

This project supports the purchase of a modest but robust sound system to continue to professionalize and build capacity for Summer Sundays, the very popular and successful outdoor jazz concert series at Allen Garden, now in its tenth season.

**Madison Youth Arts Center Inc - Supplemental Arts Equipment**

Award: \$2,000

Madison Youth Arts Center (MYArts) provides opportunities for young people to express themselves, discover the arts, and create connections. Rapid growth has increased participant needs. This grant supplements equipment, such as music stands, chairs, tables, and A/V tools to meet growing demands.

**Polka! Press - Polka! Press Accessibility, Improvements and Expansion**

Award: \$2,000

Polka! Press is an artist-run cooperative that promotes a vibrant local printmaking culture by providing access to equipment, resources and educational opportunities. This year, we are moving and creating a shared maker space that is wheelchair accessible and safe for all ages and abilities to explore printmaking.

**Short Order Grants**

**Araceli Esparza Poet - Poetry in Spanish Workshops**

Award: \$750

Local Chicana Poet, Araceli Esparza, in collaboration with Leopold Elementary, will offer a Spanish-language poetry workshops for families and the public featuring interactive activities for children and families to build a community Bilingual word bank centered around the themes of "HOME," "CASA," and "HOGAR." We will also provide arts as a manner of creating respite and reflection for the staff of Leapold in a workshop for them.

**Culture Trip LLC - *Bilingual Literacy & SEL (social emotional learning) Empowerment through Library Events***

Award: \$750

Samira Alvarez Gretzinger, author of six books, soon to be seven, is launching a new series of bilingual events aimed at promoting literacy and social-emotional learning (SEL) within Latine and migrant communities. These events will provide families with engaging educational opportunities to foster both emotional well-being and academic growth, while celebrating bilingualism and cultural diversity.

The bilingual programming will include storytelling, workshops, and hands-on activities designed to connect participants with essential resources and tools. Although the events will primarily serve Latine and migrant families, they are open to all, with a special focus on uplifting historically marginalized groups.

**Madison Youth Arts Center Inc - *Youth Arts Therapeutic Sensory Kits***

Award: \$1,000

Our goal is to streamline the process of assisting user needs. This project provides sensory toolkits to create a more inclusive and comfortable environment for neurodivergent users and/or anyone with a sensitivity who practices and/or attends events at MYArts, not limited to theater, choral, dance, and educational programming.