



Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs: **2025 Cycle 2 Grants**

Arts in Education

American Players Theatre - 2025 In-Classroom Residencies for Dane County Schools

Award: \$1,779

In-classroom residency programs, led by APT Teaching Artists, infuse students with enthusiasm for literary works, equip them with tools to approach challenging literature, such as poetry and Shakespeare, and instill in them the confidence to express themselves with language.

David Alvarez - Gil - *Tras las huellas del lince ibérico - A Photographic Travelling Exhibit Across Dane County*

Award: \$887

Tras las huellas del lince ibérico is a bilingual traveling photography exhibit by David Álvarez Gil, showcasing stunning images of the endangered Iberian Lynx and local wildlife to inspire environmental awareness and cultural connection across Dane County.

Little Picassos - *Little Picassos Art Program 2026*

Award: \$1,870

Little Picassos is a free after school art enrichment program for underserved, low-income children primarily living in transitional or subsidized housing in Madison, Wisconsin. Little Picassos has been a thriving program for the past ten years.

Madison Contemporary Dance - *Youth Creative Movement Project*

Award: \$1,701

Weekly dance classes and performances for underserved youth. Children will train with Sara Rohs, Papa Kobina Brewoo, Tyra Lex and Kristen Hammer to study ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, breakdancing, and tumbling, focusing on community, confidence and finding their creative voice.

Madison Reading Project - *Community Stories Project*

Award: \$1,734

Community Stories Project will bring large print books featuring diverse creators and characters to spaces where art and literacy opportunities are needed most throughout Dane County that increase reading engagement and ongoing access to an art and literacy experience.

Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. - *Spring Young People's Concert 2026*

Award: \$1,781

The Spring Young People's Concert is a live classical music concert by a professional symphony orchestra, specifically designed for high school students. The concert is performed by the MSO in Overture Hall and features a solo by the student winner of the MSO's Bolz Young Artist Competition.

Monroe Street Arts Center - *Aspiring Artists & Musicians*

Award: \$1,306

Aspiring Artists & Musicians is a free, inclusive program for ages 0-5. Children of all abilities explore music, movement, and art in a supportive setting co-led by MSAC instructors and therapists, encouraging creativity and developmental growth through joyful, accessible experiences.

Music con Brio, Inc. - *Music con Brio's 14th Annual Community Concert Series*

Award: \$1,811

Music con Brio proudly presents our 14th Annual Community Concert Series, integrating our Music by Black Composers project. These free concerts pair our students with diverse local professional musicians, bringing Emerson and the wider community together with unique and enriching musical offerings.

Salon Piano Series - *Salon Piano Series: Outreach Programs to Expand Access to Classical Music*

Award: \$1,021

Salon Piano Series presents world-class piano and chamber music in an intimate setting on historic instruments. Through free masterclasses, outreach concerts, and House Concerts, SPS fosters inclusion, education, and inspiring musical experiences for audiences of all ages.

University of Wisconsin-Madison - *Whoopensocker 2025-26 Performance Season*

Award: \$1,801

Whoopensocker is an artist-in-residence program working in elementary schools to teach creative expression through writing, improv, and performance. The Whoopensocker Performing Ensemble adapts and performs the stories kids write for the stage in a vaudeville-style sketch show for all ages.

Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, Inc. - *Unlocking Potential Through Music*

Award: \$1,734

Music Makers is looking to expanding our general music education program to allow more

students from the waitlist to gain a basic understanding of music, so they will be prepared for private lessons and have a foundational understanding of music literacy.

Dance

Central Midwest Ballet - *CMBA's The Little Matchstick Girl 2025*

Award: \$1,364

Central Midwest Ballet Academy's family-friendly, storybook ballet *The Little Matchstick* ignites the stage December 19th - 21st with a tale of love, loss and Christmas miracles.

Dance Wisconsin - *The Inclusive Nutcracker: Costuming for Diverse Adult Bodies*

Award: \$1,609

Dance Wisconsin proudly presents *The Nutcracker*, a cherished holiday tradition now in its 48th season. As the only local production to feature live orchestra, magical vocals, and a full cast of dancers, *The Nutcracker* remains a must-see holiday event for families across Dane County.

Hmong Family Society Inc - *Hmong Dance Program with Hmong Family Society Inc*

Award: \$1,663

Hmong Family Society Inc.'s volunteer-led dance program empowers youth to preserve and celebrate Hmong culture through traditional dance. Featuring four teams for ages 6 to 18+, the program promotes cultural pride, artistic excellence, and leadership development, nurturing the next generation.

Hmong Family Society Inc - *Hmong Roots & Rhythm*

Award: \$980

Hmong Family Society Inc. presents *Hmong Roots & Rhythm*, a showcase of this year's dances by Tsheej Haj, Dhia Ua Ke, Ya Ywj Siab, and Tseem Me Me. Featuring special guest artists, the event celebrates Hmong culture, youth expression, and community through vibrant performances.

Kanopy Dance Theatre Inc - *Divine Mythologies: Anna Sokolow's Epic Odes" and other Luminous Voices"*

Award: \$1,476

Eighteen dancers from NYC's Sokolow Theatre/Dance Ensemble and Kanopy Dance collaborate on performing a master work by Anna Sokolow, an international cultural icon and social activist, whose powerful theatrical choreography profoundly shaped the course of modern dance.

Madison Ballet - *Madison Ballet presents: ChoreographHER an evening of all female choreography.*

Award: \$1,711

Madison Ballet's choreographHER program uplifts and amplifies the voices of women in dance by commissioning new works exclusively from female-identifying choreographers. This initiative

reflects Madison Ballet's commitment to equity, innovation, and expanding the narratives told through ballet.

Local History

Daniel James Koehn - *Driven by Stories: A Community Storytelling Project*

Award: \$1,651

Driven By Stories (DBS) captures real-life narratives from Dane County residents through the perspective Daniel Kane-a gay, insomniac Uber driver. Blending written stories with live events, it explores resilience, connection, and identity, fostering empathy and amplifying overlooked voices.

RACE AND PLACE COALITION - *This Land: Madison. A Greater Madison and Dane County Local History Project for America's 250th*

Award: \$1,684

The project commemorates America's 250th by focusing on stories of everyday people and involving them in collecting and presenting those stories. Participants will assemble layered histories of land, raising awareness about the places that surround them.

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Chrysalis, Inc. - *Shared Threads: Stories That Weave Us Together*

Award: \$1,153

Shared Threads celebrates the art of storytelling and fosters connections across Dane County. Hosted by Chrysalis, the event features diverse storytellers-clients, staff, community-Sharing lived experiences of growth, recovery, authenticity, and resilience. Through storytelling, we stitch together.

Culture Trip LLC - *Recetas con Raíces: Cooking Latinidad from Dane County to the World*

Award: \$1,600

A multigenerational community recipe book celebrating Latin American flavors and stories passed down through families, uniting Dane County residents by sharing cultural heritage and cherished culinary traditions.

From The Front Row - *The Heart of the Earth*

Award: \$1,056

The Heart of the Earth is a live choral event presented by the Madison Choral Project and From The Front Row at Cave of the Mounds. Celebrating nature with earth-themed works, this program will be live-recorded in the North Cave with a small in-person audience, and a free live-stream.

Jeff Oloizia - *Writing Forward* podcast

Award: \$711

Writing Forward is a podcast featuring in-depth conversations with writers from or based in Wisconsin, exploring their work, creative process, and connection to place. Each episode offers a fresh look at the region's rich literary landscape through the voices shaping it.

LATINOS ORGANIZING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPMENT INC - *I Didn't Know there Were Latinos in Wisconsin*

Award: \$1,195

I Didn't Know There Were Latinos in Wisconsin is a groundbreaking series of three anthologies that amplify the voices of Latino writers and poets across Wisconsin. Curated by Oscar Mireles, former Poet Laureate of Madison the newest collection will feature 50 new Latino poets/writers.

Madison Area Technical College - *Expressions of Us: A Collective Canvas*

Award: \$1,690

This three-part arts initiative uplifts transformative power of expression by celebrating art and spoken word. Through gallery exhibitions, live performances, and a poetry slam workshop led by award-winning artist Abyss Graham, the series fosters community connection.

Madison Northside Planning Council, Inc. - *Voices from the Community: Madison's Food System*

Award: \$1,812

Madison Northside Planning Council will produce podcast series that look deeper into parts of our regional food system including "Voices of the 718: Surviving in Madison's Hungriest Food Desert" and "Dane County Farmers: Rising to the Challenge", and "FEED Kitchens' Table Talk"

Noah Bloedorn - *The Shallot: Journal of Mental Health, Art, and Literature*

Award: \$1,072

The Shallot: Journal Of Mental Health, Art, And Literature is published biannually to promote the healing power of art. Each issue platforms artists whose work emerges through lived experiences with mental health struggles. The Shallot also prioritizes work from Dane County food system workers.

Opera for the Young - *Family Opera Day featuring The Elixir of Love*

Award: \$1,751

OFTY presents its 16th annual Family Opera Day on March 31st, 2025 featuring two performances of The Magic Flute in the Playhouse Theater. Complementary workshops in design, music, and movement precede the performance in the Rotunda Theater, put on with assistance from the Madison Youth Choirs.

TNW Ensemble Theater, Inc. - *The Rhythm Project*

Award: \$1,057

The Rhythm Project gives Madison area audiences the opportunity to experience three different styles of percussive dance and movement along with live music in one performance.

Recorded narration during the performance and a free movement workshop provide cultural and historical context.

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets - 2026 WINTER FESTIVAL OF POETRY

Award: \$666

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Winter Festival of Poetry! For eight consecutive Sunday afternoons beginning on January 18 2026, six of the area's finest poets will share their work between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. The theme this year is Fit To Be Pie-D!

Wisconsin Union Theater - Madison Jazz Festival 2026

Award: \$1,798

The Wisconsin Union Theater presents the 2026 Madison Jazz Festival's closing concerts on the Memorial Union Terrace, featuring top local, regional, and international artists. Free performances and enrichment activities will celebrate jazz and foster connection in a beloved community setting.

Music

Bach Around The Clock - BATC2026

Award: \$903

Bach Around The Clock is an annual, free four-day festival that celebrates composer J.S.Bach through concerts and events at which professional, avocational and student musicians of all ages and skill levels share Bach's music with our neighbors in an inclusive, collaborative and accessible way.

con vivo!...music with life - con vivo! performs chamber music by Beethoven and Brahms

Award: \$759

con vivo!...music with life presents For the Love of Music, a performance of live classical chamber music on Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm, at First Congregational Church in Madison. The program includes music by Beethoven and Brahms.

Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra Inc. - 2025-26 Concert Series at Dane County Senior Retirement and Assisted Living Facilities

Award: \$928

Dimensions in Sound & The Studio Orchestra (plus small groups from within) bring our big band, orchestral, pops, rock and polka music to senior living residents throughout Dane County.

Grace Presents - Grace Presents 2025-2026 Concert Series and Midwinter Series

Award: \$1,107

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.

Hawthorne Neighborhood Association - *Hawthorne Neighborhood Association (HNA) summer concerts*

Award: \$868

Starting with a Make Music Madison event on 6/21, the Hawthorne Neighborhood Association hosts three more Tuesday evening family friendly outdoor concerts. Bring a blanket and enjoy the summer evenings! It's free fun!

Josh Harty - *Three Chords and Your Truth: Recovery Through Creativity*

Award: \$1,722

Three Chords and Your Truth: A Creative Path Through Recovery is a unique workshop empowering individuals on a recovery path to unlock their inherent creative side, learn guitar chords in under an hour, and transform personal journal entries into authentic songs.

Just Bach Concerts Inc(official) or Just Bach - *Just Bach Concerts Season 8 - Spring/Summer 2026*

Award: \$972

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

LunART, Inc. - *LunART Choir - New Initiative*

Award: \$1,724

LunART Choir is a treble ensemble of women-identifying (cis and trans) and non-binary sopranos and altos, dedicated to performing music by women composers and uplifting lesser-known works written for treble voices.

Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. - *15th Annual Baroque Holiday Concert Dec. 13--Christmas with the Baroque Masters. Outreach event December 12 for Madison West High School*

Award: \$1,669

Madison Bach Musicians' 15th annual Holiday Concert Christmas with the Baroque Masters will be given on Saturday afternoon December 13 at Madison's First Congregational Church. On Friday December 12, MBM will visit Madison West High School for an outreach event with school choir and orch. members.

Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. - *Mass in B minor" by J. S. Bach*

Award: \$1,746

On March 28-29, Madison Bach Musicians, under the direction of guest conductor Andrew Megill, will present two performances of Bach's "Mass in B minor" at Hamel Music Center in Madison. On March 17, MBM will play an outreach concert, featuring Bach's music, at Madison Country Day School.

Madison Flute Club - *2026 Wisconsin Flute Festival*

Award: \$1,741

Wisconsin Flute Festival is an engaging and educational day celebrating flute. The Festival includes workshops, lectures, performances, competitions, masterclasses, and an exhibit hall.

Madison Music Collective - *DiG Jazz Series Spring 2026*

Award: \$1,482

The DIG JAZZ Series presents new music performed by local musicians in a wide 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 Opera, Inc. – *“Così fan tutte” Student Matinee Program*

Award: \$1,772

Now in its fourth decade, Madison Opera's Student Matinee brings students from across our region to Overture Hall to enjoy a fully-staged opera performance. In April 2026, students will enjoy Mozart's romantic comedy *Così fan tutte*.

Madison Youth Choirs - *Madison Youth Choirs' December 2025 Concert Series, Choose Your Own Adventure*

Award: \$1,761

On December 13 and 14, 2025 at the Middleton Performing Arts Center, over 400 young singers in Madison Youth Choirs will present the Winter Concert Series, Choose Your Own Adventure, the culmination of a semester studying composition and crafting new musical work based on students' experiences.

Middleton Community Orchestra - *2025-2026: MCO's 16th season. Two concerts in March and May 2026 featuring works by Brahms, Rachmaninov, Beethoven, Ravel and Mahler.*

Award: \$1,690

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.

Oakwood Chamber Players - *Oakwood Chamber Players 2025-26 Concert Season*

Award: \$1,767

Oakwood Chambers Players welcome pianist Stacy Regehr into their signature ensemble of winds and strings for their 2026 concert series January 16-19, and March 13-15, 7PM concerts Fridays and Saturdays at Oakwood Prairie Ridge and University Woods respectively, and 2PM Sundays at Arts + Lit Lab.

PEBOGA - *2025 Fall Gospel Fest*

Award: \$1,660

Fall Gospel Fest is a one-day inspirational music event that serves as a platform for both contemporary and traditional gospel music and features national recording artists who share the stage with local artists.

Sondermusik Inc DBA Samtala - *Winter Solstice at Grand Inspired*

Award: \$1,029

Join us on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year, for a concert that nurtures all that we carry with us in the darkness. A layering of Folk & Classical music for voice and string quartet by Micah Behr amidst the smell of wood has made this a beloved Dane County tradition.

The Madison Cello Ensemble - *Wellspring Sound Arts - Jazz, Cello & Handpan concert series*

Award: \$1,812

At Madison Cello Ensemble, cellists of diverse backgrounds, abilities, & ages experience the unique nurturing power of learning and playing together! In this project, MCE students will receive instruction in improvisational jazz from Aaron Fried and Addi Faerber and perform for the community.

Token Creek Festival, Inc. - *Token Creek Chamber Music: Three MidWinter Concerts*

Award: \$1,581

Three events comprise TCCM's first winter season (Nov 2025 - Mar 2026): the internationally-acclaimed Aspen String Trio; the vivid LunArt Chamber Collective, and the next performance by Present Music (Milwaukee's premiere new music ensemble) on their new Madison series at Token Creek.

Wisconsin Chamber Choir - *Wisconsin Chamber Choir - December 2025 and February 2026*

Award: \$1,318

Wisconsin Chamber Choir presents the start of their concert season, featuring global carols in December, and student soloists and the choir in an intimate February concert.

Theater

Capital City Theatre - *Special Funding for Between the Acts Symphonic Concert Presentation*

Award: \$1,679

Step into a unique musical experience where Broadway brilliance meets classical elegance in a concert that explores the classical side of musical theatre's greatest composers. Enjoy an orchestra of 50 professional musicians, a full choir, soloists, conducted by CCT Artistic Director, Andrew Abrams.

Children's Theater of Madison - *Tiara's Hat Parade*

Award: \$1,783

Tiara's Hat Parade is a joyful one-woman show celebrating Black culture, creativity, and community. Recommended for ages 5+, this vibrant adaptation brings Kelly Starling Lyons' picture book to life with imagination, music, and heart, inviting families into the magic of theater and the strength of s

Forward Theater - *Forward Theater- Ironbound by Martyna Majok*

Award: \$1,788

Forward Theater to present IRONBOUND by Martyna Majok
One woman. Three decades. A lifetime of survival.

Stoughton Village Players - *Stoughton Village Players Presents: Hands on a Hardbody the Musical*

Award: \$1,240

To fund our upcoming show that is based on a true story with interesting characters and great music. This show has not been done in this area and would be a great fit for our theater and community.

The House Urban Arts Initiative Inc - *Black Theater Arts Program*

Award: \$1,429

This 8-week Urban Theater Arts program empowers 15-25 youth through acting, stage production, and creative expression, culminating in a live performance that showcases their talent, teamwork, and cultural pride.

Visual Arts

Hornz & Haloz Films LLC - *BANJO- A Social Conscious Film*

Award: \$500

A local filmmaker brings a Social Conscious Horror about a traditional American childhood song with a dark past to your cinematic doorstep.

Mount Horeb Area Arts Association - *19th Annual Spring Art Tour - 2026*

Award: \$1,193

Explore the vibrant art scene of southwest Wisconsin's driftless region. Tour artist studios at unique destinations to see creativity in action. Artists craft their works amidst the breathtaking natural beauty of this distinctive landscape.

Waunakee Area Public Arts Commission - *Legacy of Lands*

Award: \$1,685

Permanent placemaking art to celebrate all people of Westport's legacy of valuing green space, wetlands, land and water is dedicated. The artist was selected from over 70 applicants from 9 countries. Waunakee Area Public Arts Commission and scores of local residents fundraised the project.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters - *Tom Antell and Romano Johnson (paired exhibitions)*

Award: \$941

Tom Antell's paintings combine satire, pathos, and beauty to present an Indigenous perspective on American history and the traditional symbols of exceptionalism and bounty. Romano Johnson's canvases depict Black deities and angelic figures with sharp color, glitter, and a powerful, joyful attitude.

Short Order

Clean Lakes Alliance - *Indigenous Ice Festival Displays and Events*

Award: \$500

Clean Lakes Alliance is partnering with the Ho-Chunk Nation to bring the indigenous competitive game called "Snow Snake" to the annual Frozen Assets festival on Lake Mendota. This culturally important game allows visitors to learn more about Ho-Chunk cultural history and enjoy a friendly competition where participants compete for prizes.

Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra - *Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra: Inaugural Concert*

Award: \$500

Madison Gamer Symphony Orchestra's inaugural concert is a new orchestral showcase that seeks to build relevant connections to symphonic music across generations through a professional performance of video game soundtracks.

Madison Theatre Guild - *Madison Theatre Guild's The Butter and Egg Man*

Award: \$500

Madison Theatre Guild presents The Butter and Egg Man, a charming romcom about wide-eyed Peter, new to New York with big dreams and \$20k. Laugh along as Peter gets conned, outsmarts his swindlers, wins the girl, and lands a hit show in this delightful precursor to Mel Brook's The Producers.

Sandra Schoen - *Sandra Schoen & Katherine Rosing (Paired Exhibitions)*

Award: \$475

Rosing and Schoen's Invisible Truths exhibition at the Overture Center explores hidden systems and emotional undercurrents, mapping subtle connections between memory, architecture, and the fragile ecologies of forests and watersheds. Programming includes art-making workshops highlighting the intersection of art and science, artist talks, and a reception. Exhibition runs March 17 - May 31.

Triangle Community Ministry - *Art for Life*

Award: \$250

This program will serve a vulnerable population by providing opportunities for social engagement and therapeutic benefits of creating beautiful art for their homes and community. With funding, we will provide quality art supplies and instruction, working with experienced volunteers, professionals, and local art schools from around Dane County.

Capital

Arts & Literature Laboratory, Inc. - *Assistive Listening for ALL*

Award: \$900

ALL presents over 200 events each year for approximately 25,000 people; hearing assistive

devices will help make our free or low-cost arts and education programs more accessible and enjoyable for thousands of Dane County residents who suffer from hearing loss.

Create Waunakee, Inc. - *Durable Tents for Waunakee Artisan Market (WAM) Student/ Emerging Artists*

Award: \$900

The Waunakee Artisan Market, an annual local initiative created by artists for artists at Schumacher Farm, is securing durable tents. These will provide free, professional exhibition spaces for student artists at part of our mentoring program, fostering their growth and participation in community events by removing financial barriers.

Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra Inc. - *Drum Kit Purchase*

Award: \$429

We are in need of a new drum kit that will be used by both Dimensions in Sound and The Studio Orchestra for rehearsals and performances at senior living sites all around Dane County.

Madison Area Potters Guild - *Madison Area Potters Guild 2025 Booth Project Grant*

Award: \$414

The Madison Area Potters Guild is committed providing educational opportunities and supportive relationships for professional and non-professional potters and ceramic artists. Additionally, we aim to further the common good and general welfare by enhancing the public's knowledge, interest and appreciation of pottery and ceramic arts through exhibitions, presentations, and sales.

Madison Metropolitan Schools - Assistive Technology Department - *Artist in Everyone:*

Adapted Materials for Visual Art/Music Classes

Award: \$413

The Madison Metropolitan School District's Assistive Technology Department is teaming up with the Arts Department to eliminate barriers, encourage every child's independent creative self-expression and celebrate community inclusion through the purchase of adapted art and music materials for students with diverse needs.

Oregon Community Foundation - *Oregon Community Foundation (dba - OCA Media) video camera and audio equipment-August 2025*

Award: \$900

OCA Media (a community access television station located in the Village of Oregon, Wisconsin) records and streams community performing arts events for the residents of the Village of Oregon. Updating camera and audio recording equipment allows our organization to continue to provide this service.

Wisconsin Film Festival - *Equipment for 2026 Wisconsin Film Festival*

Award: \$808

The 27th annual Wisconsin Film Festival is an 8-day celebration of the art of cinema, presented

by the University of Wisconsin's Department of Communication Arts. Over 150 films are shown in seven venues, both on and off the UW-Campus. The Film Festival screens new narratives, documentaries and experimental features and shorts from 50 different nations and from right here in Wisconsin. The Fest also engages young audiences throughout the state through its Big Screens, Little Folks program. Over 3,000 area youth participate in school field trips, with tickets and busing underwritten by the Film Festival, with support provided by Dane Arts.