



Dane County Arts and Cultural Affairs: **2026 Cycle 2 Project Grant Awards**

Arts in Education

American Players Theatre - 2026 In-Classroom Residencies for Dane County Schools

Award: \$1,800

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.

EXPLORE CHILDRENS MUSEUM OF SUN PRAIRIE - Create Without Limits

Award: \$1,342

Explore Children's Museum of Sun Prairie seeks funding to enhance its Makerspace, where children engage in daily, hands-on art experiences using open-ended materials. The program fosters creativity, problem-solving, and confidence while ensuring every child has access to create!

Madison Contemporary Dance - Our Story in Motion

Award: \$1,847

Our Story in Motion brings professional dance teaching artists into preschools, elementary and middle schools, where students build confidence, creativity, and leadership through weekly dance classes and original choreography. The project culminates in a performance celebrating every child!

Madison Symphony Orchestra Inc. - Fall Youth Concerts 2026

Award: \$1,869

The Fall Youth Concerts are live classical music concerts, performed by the MSO, specifically designed for students in grades 4-8. The concerts are performed in Overture Hall and feature a solo by the student winner of the MSO's Topitzes Family Fall Youth Concerto Competition.

Monroe Street Arts Center - *Aspiring Artists & Musicians*

Award: \$1,139

A free, inclusive program focused on supporting neurodivergent children through therapeutic art and music classes. Monroe Street Arts Center collaborates with Aspire Therapies and Development to make this a safe space for children to reach their therapy goals.

Music con Brio, Inc. - *Music con Brio's 15th Annual Community Concert Series*

Award: \$1,820

Music con Brio proudly presents our 15th Annual Community Concert Series, integrating our Music by Black/Women Composers projects, pairing our students with diverse local professional musicians, bringing Emerson and the wider community together with unique, enriching, and FREE musical offerings.

Prairie Music & Arts Inc - *Sun Prairie Creates*

Award: \$1,792

Sun Prairie Creates, a collaboration between Prairie Music & Arts and Sun Prairie Community Schools, promotes access to the arts, raises awareness of diverse art forms, and supports the socio-emotional growth of youth through multidisciplinary arts, entrepreneurship, and leadership experiences.

Scriptwriter's Foundation, Inc. - *Leaders Intellectually Talented (LIT) Program*

Award: \$1,755

Scriptwriters Foundation will lead a 10-week after-school literary arts pilot for 10 Emerson Elementary students. Three days each week, youth will explore Langston Hughes through guided reading, creative writing, discussion, and performance, culminating in a public family showcase.

University of Wisconsin-Madison - *Whoopensocket Live in Dane County: 2026-27 Performance Season*

Award: \$1,837

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

Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras, Inc. - *WYSO Music Makers*

Award: \$1,852

Music Makers seeks to expand our general music education program to allow more students from the waitlist to gain a foundational understanding of music, so they will be prepared for private lessons and have well-rounded learning experiences, leading to music literacy.

Dance

Central Midwest Ballet - *Central Midwest Ballet's The Little Matchstick Girl 2026*

Award: \$1,552

Central Midwest Ballet's family-friendly, storybook ballet *The Little Matchstick Girl* ignites Oregon Performing Arts Center's stage December 18th - 20th with a tale of love, loss and Christmas miracles.

Elizabeth Sexe - *Windows: Perspectives and Understanding*

Award: \$777

Liz Sexe Dance presents *Window*, is an immersive dance performance which will allow the audience to see two sides of a story. Each person will have their own story to tell about the choreographic tale, with music by Timothy Russell and a set design collaboration with Next Wave,

Isthmus Dance Collective Inc - *Contours in the Snow*

Award: \$1,193

Contours in the Snow is a show that highlights works by our artists in the heart of winter. Our members hone skills in their genres while coming together for this collective experience. The result is a combination of dance that is smoothly harmonious and balanced, much like a blanket of fresh snow.

Jen Costillo - *Madison Experimental Dance Incubator 2026 - commencing performance series*

Award: \$930

Madison Experimental Dance Incubator is a quarterly single-event salon that provides lasting commitment to experimental dance by providing a consistent, low-barrier performance platform for Wisconsin-based dance artists. We encourage interdisciplinary works integrating dance with other art forms.

North Star Dance Theatre - *Eau de Köln*

Award: \$1,133

North Star Dance Theatre presents the Madison premiere of *Eau de Köln* with movement drawn both from the architecture of Keith Jarrett's improvisations and from Christopher Aponte's own vision of moving water performed by eleven classically trained, professional dancers.

Unincorporated Dance Lab - *u.DL presents Elemental Notions*

Award: \$968

Elemental Notions explores what happens when we stop running from the tension between who we were told to be and who we are. Through a first-generation American lens, it proposes that cultural identity is not a fixed destination but a living force, and reclamation is an act of profound humanity.

Local History

City of Monona - *Monona's 2027 Historic Preservation Month poster*

Award: \$837

Monona has one of the most significant groupings of International-style houses in the state. We hope the poster heightens the community's civic pride, public awareness, and appreciation for them. Of the 11 International homes in Monona, six have been lost to demolition.

GSAFE - *Honoring the History of Quilts in LGBTQ+ Resistance: GSAFE's Quilts & Fiber Arts Auction*

Award: \$1,755

Quilts have long been part of LGBTQ+ resistance movements. Building on this history, since Fall 2020, makers of all backgrounds have donated their creations to GSAFE's Quilt & Fiber Arts Auction, supporting our network of 200+ families of LGBTQ+ youth in Dane County.

Multidisciplinary Arts/Culture

Friends of Schumacher Farm, Inc. - *Schumacher Farm Park Indigenous Culture Celebration*

Award: \$962

The Indigenous Culture Celebration is a free, family-friendly event at Schumacher Farm Park highlighting Indigenous arts, performance, and storytelling. Led by Native artists, the celebration fosters cultural understanding through interactive, community-based experiences.

Jeff Oloizia - *Writing Forward Podcast*

Award: \$1,583

Created and hosted in Madison, Writing Forward brings together authors across fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and journalism for thoughtful, wide-ranging conversations about craft, identity, and the realities of building a writing life outside the traditional publishing centers.

Maurice Norman - *Don't Lose Heart*

Award: \$1,722

Maurice J. Norman's Don't Lose Heart blends documentary poetry, oral history, and chamber music to illuminate Black cultural memory, creating an accessible space in Madison for learning, reflection, and community connection.

Opera for the Young - *Family Opera Day featuring Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale""*

Award: \$1,759

OFTY presents its 17th annual Family Opera Day on May 29, 2027 featuring 2 performances of

Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale 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

Sage Lewis - *A Feast for the Senses: Steelpan and Caribbean Culture*

Award: \$1,468

Feast for the Senses brings the renowned steelpan and percussion duo, Liam Teague and Jaden Teague-Núñez to Dane County for a 2 day residency on April 2-3, 2027 to present performances and workshops for youth and adults highlighting the music, dance and costumes of Caribbean culture.

UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence - *ReUNIDOS: Healing Through Connection and Creative Expression*

Award: \$1,649

UNIDOS' ReUNIDOS Men's Support Group is a culturally responsive, bilingual program that creates safe spaces where Latine men build community, explore identity, and strengthen emotional well-being through dialogue, art, and peer connection.

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets - *2027 Winter Festival of Poetry*

Award: \$639

A six-week series of poetry readings to be held on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Six poets will participate each Sunday for a total of 36 poets.

Music

Bach Around The Clock - *Bach Around The Clock 2027*

Award: \$949

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 Glinka and Berwald*

Award: \$1,127

con vivo!...music with life presents For the Love of Music a performance of live classical chamber music on Saturday, February 6, 2027 at 7:30 pm, at First Congregational Church in Madison. The program includes music by composers Glinka and Berwald in septets of winds and strings.

Culture Trip LLC - *Un Lugar Llamado Música: An Intergenerational Bilingual Music and Literacy Project*

Award: \$1,377

Un Lugar Llamado Música is a bilingual children's book and intergenerational project celebrating the musical legacy of my abuela Clara Luz Font. Through storytelling, it illustrates how cultural heritage serves as an emotional refuge.

Dane Dances - *DANE DANCES! 2027*

Award: \$1,789

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 2027, 4 Friday evening events will be sponsored from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra Inc. - *50 Years of Improving Seniors' Lives in Dane County Through Music!*

Award: \$889

Three music ensembles, as part of the non-profit Dimensions In Sound & The Studio Orchestra (DISSO), travel to perform orchestral and big band music at senior living communities for those who are unable to seek out cultural entertainment because of their age or disabilities.

Forest Edge Elementary School PTO - *Forest Edge Elementary Artist in Residency - Sowah Mensah*

Award: \$1,217

Ghanaian Master Drumming Sowah Mensah is coming to Forest Edge Elementary to teach his music and his culture to the students. There will be a performance with all Forest Edge students including the band, orchestra, choir, and Oregon Drumming Ensemble on Thursday, March 25th.

Grace Presents - *Grace Presents 2026-2027 Saturday Concert Series and Midwinter Concert Series*

Award: \$1,315

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.

Johanna Wienholts - *Quinn Mason Harp Sonata Commission*

Award: \$1,362

Celebrated harpist, Johanna Wienholts, will be premiering a newly commissioned harp sonata by composer Quinn Mason. This sonata is the very first of its kind and will honor the beauty of the instrument through one of our most important compositional voices of today, Quinn Mason.

Just Bach Concerts Inc - *Just Bach Concerts Season 9 - Midday Series, Evening Concert, Baroque Remix at Garver Feed Mill June 11th and 12th*

Award: \$1,080

Just Bach Concerts presents the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries via free and

accessible concerts throughout Madison and Dane County. Our musician's sing and play using historical performance techniques and we end every performance with a Bach chorale singalong in both German and English.

LunART, Inc. - *LunART Concert Series 26.27*

Award: \$1,854

LunART Concert Series 2026-27 is a year-round program celebrating the artistry and voices of women through innovative concerts, educational events, and community engagement. The series offers dynamic performances and artistic experiences throughout both the fall and spring.

Madison Bach Musicians, Inc. - *16th Annual Holiday Concert, Latin American Baroque on Dec. 11 & 12, 2026. Outreach Event at MMSD Schenk Elementary School, Dec. 10.*

Award: \$1,796

Madison Bach Musicians' 16th Annual Holiday Concert will celebrate the wonderful music written in Latin America and the Iberian peninsula during the Baroque era, with an outreach event at Schenk Elem. Performers include: Soprano, tenor, recorder, guitar, violins, cello, chamber organ, percussion.

Madison Choral Project - *Madison Choral Project 2026-2027*

Award: \$1,819

Madison Choral Project kicks off its 13th season in Dec. 2026 with its annual narrative concert of great music and readings, a large-scale performance for 60 voices, and the world premiere *The Guest House* by a Swiss composer. His works build on established choral traditions with expanded harmonics

Madison Flute Club - *2027 Wisconsin Flute Festival*

Award: \$1,835

The Wisconsin Flute Festival is an engaging and educational day celebrating flute and flute music. The festival includes workshops, lectures, performance, competitions, interactive classes, and an exhibit hall.

Madison Music Collective - *MMC Community Music Programming Spring 2027*

Award: \$1,469

MMC's Community Music Series presents new music performed by local musicians in a wide variety of jazz styles. The 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. - *Postcard From Morocco*

Award: \$1,805

Madison Opera will present Dominick Argento's *Postcard From Morocco* on February 5 and 7, 2027 in the Capitol Theater at Overture Center for the Arts. A Moroccan train station in 1914 becomes a crossroad of dreams in this witty and touching story about strangers, secrets, and stories.

Madison Youth Choirs - *Madison Youth Choirs' December 2026 Concert Series, "Disappearing Voices"*

Award: \$1,884

On December 12 and 13, 2026 at the Middleton Performing Arts Center, over 400 young singers in Madison Youth Choirs will present the Winter Concert Series Disappearing Voices, the culmination of a semester studying music that preserves and celebrates endangered or historically oppressed languages.

Maestro Productions, Inc. - *Maestro Productions Winter Concerts*

Award: \$867

Three community music ensembles, the Ringing Badgers Handbell Ensemble, Madison Community Chorus, and Maestro Community Orchestra perform a variety of music for choir, orchestra and bells, with lovely settings of traditional Christmas Carols combined with a carol sing along for the community.

Make Music Madison - *2027 Make Music Madison*

Award: \$1,681

Make Music Madison is a free, citywide celebration of live music every June 21. We are part of Make Music Day, a holiday honored in 1,000+ cities across the globe. Madison's event is the largest in the country, and has inspired over a dozen chapters across the state.

Middleton Community Orchestra - *2026-2027: MCO's 17th season. Two concerts in March and May 2027 featuring works by Brahms, Britten, Saint-Saens, Beethoven, and Mahler.*

Award: \$1,844

Performed by outstanding musicians from Dane County in collaboration with some of classical music's brightest local stars, MCO's 17th Anniversary concerts are affordable, accessible community events perfect for audiences of ALL ages.

Oakwood Chamber Players - *Oakwood Chamber Players 2027 artist honoraria*

Award: \$1,812

Oakwood Chamber Players, with their unique combination of wind and string instruments and special guest artists, along with stories shared from the stage, strive to make every concert welcoming, inspiring, and enjoyable for all.

PEBOGA - *2026 Fall Gospel Fest*

Award: \$1,739

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.

The Madison Cello Ensemble - *Madison Cello Ensemble - Improvisation and Creativity, Paths to Student Well-being*

Award: \$1,504

MCE invites cellists of diverse backgrounds & ages to experience the unique qualities of the

cello, explore improvisational music with renowned experts Aaron Fried (jazz), explore creativity development with Zach Preucil & Beth Kiser, and practice Feldenkrais Awareness with Uri Vardi. All welcome!

The Philharmonic Chorus of Madison - *2026 Project Grant PCoM Winter Serenade & 80th Anniversary*

Award: \$1,563

Our Winter Serenade is a public ticketed concert. The choir sings a combination of large ensemble music, small ensemble music and audience sing-along music. The music is from the 1600's to 2026 and features music about winter holidays such as the Winter Solstice, Christmas and Hanukkah.

Token Creek Festival, Inc. - *Token Creek Chamber Music: Winter Season (2026-2027)*

Award: \$1,852

Token Creek's year-round programming continues with five winter events, November - April. Exceptional regional artists from Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Stoughton pair recent music with the classical canon, alongside three March lectures on Paradoxes in the Arts.

Wisconsin Chamber Choir - *Wisconsin Chamber Choir - December 2026 - Christmas with J. S. Bach and Margaret Bonds*

Award: \$1,688

The Wisconsin Chamber Choir proudly presents Christmas with J. S. Bach and Margaret Bonds. This program features favorite holiday works by Bach along with Bonds' Ballad of the Brown King, performed with a professional orchestra.

Theater

Forward Theater - *Dakar 2000*

Award: \$1,702

Forward Theater will present Dakar 2000 by Rajiv Joseph- a thrilling suspense story set on the eve of Y2K.

Madison Theatre Guild - *Madison Theatre Guild's 2027 Production of Ken Ludwig's Dear Jack, Dear Louise*

Award: \$605

Madison Theatre Guild proudly presents Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig's World War II romcom based on his parents' epistolary courtship. At The Bartell Theatre 1/29/27 - 2/06/27, don't miss this delightful love story which proves there is power in the well-written letter.

Middleton Players Theatre - *Middleton Players Theatre's 2027 Production of Come From Away*

Award: \$1,741

Middleton Players will present the beloved musical, *Come From Away*, featuring all local performers. *Come From Away* is a story about community, finding common ground despite our differences, and coming together in times of crisis--a deeply relevant message in today's climate.

Summit Players Theatre - *Summit Players Theatre 2027 Shakespeare in the State Parks Tour*

Award: \$1,769

Summit Players Theatre presents their 2027 Shakespeare in the State Parks Tour. This tour will hold free Shakespeare workshops and performances throughout the Wisconsin State Parks, including Blue Mound and Lake Kegonsa State Parks in Dane County.

TNW Ensemble Theater, Inc. - *To The Moon!/Mars!*

Award: \$1,150

This project includes the production, and world premiere of *To The Moon!/Mars*, a new play. It's the third in a series of plays featuring a mild-mannered editor who assumes the tough as nails identity of Helen Wheels to fight injustice. This time, she takes on tech bros and data centers.

Visual Arts

Eastmorland Community Center - *Community Murals by Amy Zaremba*

Award: \$1,762

The new Eastmorland Community Center campus will feature 2 murals by Amy Zaremba featuring native flora and fauna. Created with community participation, these murals will be located on the community center and Grace Commons at Eastmorland.

Jin Wang - *From Ancient Characters to Community Connections: Oracle Bone Script Calligraphy & Lantern Project*

Award: \$1,226

Discover the ancient art of Oracle Bone Script through calligraphy and illuminated lantern making. This free community arts project invites youth and families to create, exhibit, and bring home artwork that transforms cultural heritage into a living community experience.

LATINOS ORGANIZING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPMENT INC - *Day of the Dead Exhibition*

Award: \$1,013

LOUD's Day of the Dead Art Exhibition features Latino and other artists and community-created altars honoring loved ones through the traditions of Día de los Muertos. The exhibition

celebrates remembrance, culture, and community while educating visitors about this meaningful Mexican tradition.

Mount Horeb Area Arts Association - *20th Anniversary: Spring Art Tour, 20th Annual 2027*

Award: \$1,420

Celebrating 20 years, the Spring Art Tour is a free, self-guided journey through artist studios and the scenic landscapes of western Dane County. Anniversary celebrations, artist demonstrations, and unique local experiences make this milestone event a memorable weekend for visitors of all ages.

PhotoMidwest (a.k.a. The Center for Photography at Madison) - *PhotoMidwest Biennial Festival 2026*

Award: \$1,278

PhotoMidwest's 2026 Festival is a vibrant celebration of photographic art-welcoming everyone, from casual viewers to photography enthusiasts and professionals. Best of all, every event is open to the public.

Textile Arts Center of Madison, Inc. - *Textile Art Market at the Textile Arts Center of Madison*

Award: \$1,247

The Textile Arts Center of Madison's 2026 Textile Art Market is a free, curated holiday marketplace showcasing diverse fiber artists. Led by guest curator Dakota Mace, the event connects audiences with handmade textile art while supporting artists and expanding engagement with fiber art.

Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters - *Jamal Currie and Jolene Frechette: paired solo exhibitions*

Award: \$908

Jolene Frechette's embroideries combine imagery from her Menominee heritage and pop culture to create biting funny reflections of contemporary Native life. Jamal Currie's work asks how we are seen by the technologies we create, from 3D printing, scanning, and UV mapping to digital collage.

Wisconsin Women's Network - *40th Annual Artful Women Exhibition, hosted by Wisconsin Women's Network*

Award: \$1,565

Celebrating 40 years in 2026, Artful Women showcases the creativity and talent of women artists from across Wisconsin. The exhibition at University Hospital brings diverse works to a public space, connecting artists, patients, families, and the broader Madison community through the power of art.

Women Artists Forward Fund - *Women Artist Forward Fund Exhibition and Artist Showcases*

Award: \$1,516

Women Artists Forward Fund will present a public exhibition featuring all 2026 Forward Art Prize (FAP) applicants (November 4-28), an opening reception and announcement of the

winners (November 5), two public lectures in partnership with the MMoCA, and two winner open studios.

Short Order

Benjamin Seidensticker - *Lucid Dreaming Sketch Comedy Show Series and Workshops*

Award: \$500

Lucid Dreaming Sketch presents a series of short, scripted comedy shows written and performed by local Madison artists. Make your date night or weekend out a memorable one.

Black Earth Children's Museum Inc. - *Art Week 2027*

Award: \$500

Art Week is a week of hands-on art experiences where visiting artists inspire children and families through daily demonstrations followed by interactive art making sessions that focus on creativity, exploration and the joy of the artistic process.

gretchen olson - *The JOY Project*

Award: \$500

The Joy Project invites visitors to investigate the use of Joy as a form of resistance and a strategy for resilience. Offering several points of entry, through song, art-making, art viewing and social connection, participants will be lifted up and empowered to stand firm in their beliefs and let their voices be heard.

Madison Chamber Players - *Music-Art Collaboration: Madison Composer Commission for New Chazen Museum of Art Collection*

Award: \$250

Join the Madison Chamber Players at the Chazen Museum of Art on December 6th from 12:30-2:00 PM for a performance celebrating the new Chazen Collection! This free concert will feature the world premiere of a new work by Madison-based composer Dr. Lawren Brianna Ware.

Capital

Disability Pride Madison - *Leveling the Field*

Award: \$1,000

The project will purchase additional portable accessible pathways that create stable routes across grass and uneven terrain, allowing people who use wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, canes, and other mobility devices to fully participate in outdoor events. Disability Pride Madison will use the pathways at its annual festival and make them available for loan to other nonprofit organizations and community groups, expanding accessibility at events throughout Dane County.

Madison Area Concert Handbells - *MACH Capital Grant Application-E2 Handbell*

Award: \$1,000

Madison Area Concert Handbells, now in its 29th year serving the Dane County community, is expanding its instrumentation to bring a fuller sound to its audiences for a deeper experience and appreciation of this four-century-old unique musical artform, performed by one of the finest handbell choirs in the nation.