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Multnomah County Cultural Coalition Annual Highlights 2015

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2015 has been a busy year for the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition (MCCC) in supporting arts, heritage and the humanities throughout Multnomah County through funds provided by the Oregon Cultural Trust.

A focus on providing grant orientation sessions, enhanced communication, improved strategies to recruit new members, and funding new grantees from a wider community have yielded positive results. MCCC membership is currently at its 12-member capacity, representing a mix of arts and culture advocates from across the Portland community. In 2015, 88 grant applications were submitted for the 2016 project year, an increase of 20% over the previous year. For the 2016 grant year, 40 groups will receive \$1,000 to \$2,000 grants totaling \$65,000. In 2015, \$58,000 supported 38 groups.

Since 2003, the MCCC has been charged with reviewing and granting Cultural Participation Grants to organizations and groups in the county to foster collaboration, increase community access, and build participation in the arts, humanities and heritage.

Highlights from the recent grant cycle:

- Grant projects represented a variety of community concerts, festivals and performances, including: The Iraqi Society of Oregon for an international cultural exhibit; Parkrose Heights Assn. of Neighbors for 6 cultural summer performances; St. Johns Main Street for a grass roots street fair; One Flaming Arrow Festival for a Native American and Indigenous peoples film festival; Cottonwood in the Flood/The Vanport Mosaic Festival to support a play about the Vanport floods; and Central NE Neighbors for summer concerts in the Roseway neighborhood.

- Youth-focused initiatives, including: Kukatonon Children's African Dance Troupe for dance and drumming programs to inspire children about their African and African American Heritage; Portland Youth Philharmonic Assn. (PYP) for a joint free concert with PYP and Bravo Orchestra at Rose Parks Elementary; Spit/Write, Inc. to capture written youth dreams about a future looking community; Center for the Arts Foundation for 8 free Monday evening youth concerts; and White Bird for a collaboration with Portland Public Schools to develop a multidisciplinary curriculum inspired by Cuba's Malpasos Dance Company.

We encourage you to look at our website to learn about some of the activities funded by MCCC and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Together, we're making a difference in Oregonians' lives!

For a complete list of projects receiving grant funds, please visit:

<http://multiculturalcoalition.org/grants/>

The Multnomah County Cultural Coalition