



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2023

\$123,295 in Cultural Tourism Grants Awarded To 16 Stark County Organizations

Stark County, Ohio – Visit Canton and ArtsinStark awarded an additional \$123,295 in Cultural Tourism Grants to 16 Stark County organizations. The following organizations, communities, and businesses received Cultural Tourism Grants:

- **Pro Football Hall of Fame** | Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic – Faith, Family & Football Gospel Concert
\$20,000 – Support entertainment costs for Tamela Mann & Family’s performance in Centennial Plaza, September 2
- **National First Ladies’ Library** | Beyond Camelot: Jaqueline Kennedy Exhibition
\$20,000 – Support of marketing and programming for major exhibition Beyond Camelot: The Life and Legacy of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, May 2, 2023-April 27, 2024
- **Hartville Kitchen Restaurant, Inc.** | Hartville Kitchen Concert Series
\$17,000 – Support of Hartville Kitchen Concert Series addition of performances, guest artists and new dining format for enhanced guest experience, March-December 2023
- **Canton Fine Arts Associates** | 50th Christkindl Markt
\$9,500 – Support of new out-of-county marketing initiatives for the 50th Christkindl Markt at the Canton Museum of Art and Cultural Center for the Arts, November 3 & 4
- **Pro Football Hall of Fame** | Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic – The Classic Tailgate & Game
\$8,750 – Support of new out-of-county marketing initiatives and support of The Classic Tailgate and in-game entertainment at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, September 3
- **Stark Si Se Puede!, Inc.** | Canton Latino Fest
\$8,150 – Support of new out-of-county marketing and enhanced cultural entertainment at the Canton Latino Fest in Centennial Plaza, September 30
- **Queer in Canton** | Stark Pride Festival National Headliners
\$8,000 – Support of national headliner as a mainstage performer for the Stark Pride Festival in Centennial Plaza, June 10
- **Jackson Township** | The Nash Family-Jackson Amphitheater 2023 Weekend Concert Series
\$7,000 – Support of The Nash Family-Jackson Amphitheater 2023 Weekend Concert Series artist fees for 10 weekend concert series, June-September 2023

- **Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce** | Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Indoor Events
\$5,200 – Support of runway show producer and creative director, Aimon Ali, of Fashion Talks, to execute a creative and diverse showcase addition to the Fashion Show Luncheon at the Canton Memorial Civic Center, August 4
- **720 Market** | DEC 720 MKT
\$4,550 – Support of new out-of-county marketing and enhanced cultural entertainment at the DEC 720 MKT at the Canton Memorial Civic Center and Cultural Center for the Arts, December 10
- **EN-RICH-MENT** | EN-RICH-MENT's Third Annual African American Arts Festival
\$4,500 – Support of new entertainment at the African American Arts Festival in Centennial Plaza, July 21 & 22
- **Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce** | Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic
\$3,145 – Support of Nashville recording artist, Kolby Oakley, performance at the Balloon Classic at Kent State University at Stark and Stark State campuses, July 29-31
- **University of Mount Union** | University of Mount Union's 10th Anniversary of Shakespeare at the Castle
\$2,000 – Support of new out-of-county marketing for Shakespeare at the Castle performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" at Glamorgan Castle, July 27-August 6
- **Alliance Area Preservation Society/Haines Home** | Downtown Alliance Art and Music Festival Series
\$1,600 – Support of new mainstage entertainment at the Historic Main Street Art and Music Festival, July 15
Support of the live mural painting by the Alliance Alley Allies during Duck, Duck Jeep Fall Festival, October 14
- **Small Town Monsters LLC** | Monster Fest Movie Premiere
\$1,000 – Support of new out-of-county digital marketing for premiere of movie "On the Trail of Bigfoot Land of the Missing" at the Canton Palace Theatre, June 2
- **Canton Greek Fest** | 2023 Canton Greek Fest Thursday Night Comedian
\$1,000 – Support of stand-up comedian, Ellen Karis, known as the "Greek Goddess of Comedy", as the mainstage performer for the Thursday night entertainment at the Canton Greek Fest, June 8
- **Strauss Studios** | Event Funding for Strauss Studios
\$1,000 – Support of additional local and regional musicians at exhibit openings during Canton's First Friday programming at Strauss Studios
- **Muggswigz Coffee and Tea Company** | Celebrating the Craft
\$900 – Support of out-of-county digital marketing initiatives and interactive local artists and musicians, October 14

[These awards are in addition to the \\$219,064 in Cultural Tourism Grants awarded earlier in 2023.](#) To date, \$342,359 in Cultural Tourism Grants has been awarded to 28 Stark County organizations for 2023 applications. Cultural Tourism Grants are funded through 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 and culture initiatives that appeal to visitors. A committee of five representatives from or appointed by Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, and ArtsInStark, the Stark County Arts Council, review submitted applications.

Visit Canton, President & CEO Allyson Bussey shared, “We’re so pleased to see a growing number of applications being submitted, resulting in a competitive review process and increasing diversity in the offering of arts and culture entertainment in the destination!”

David Whitehill, ArtsInStark, President & CEO, shared similar sentiments “Community partners continue to impress the Committee with new partnerships, new entertainment offerings, and reimagination of staple community events to boost tourism in our community. Through this grant partnership, we are able to support these new projects and attract people to encounter our unique cultural experiences.”

Cultural Tourism Grant applications for initiatives taking place in 2023 are open. The Committee will review all applications submitted by June 1st and will award up to an additional \$70,000 in support for projects to be completed in 2023. Interested organizations can find out more information at visitcanton.com/partners/visit-canton-grant-program.

About 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.

Visit Canton Contact: Allison Gromofsky | Manager of Grants & Promotions | 330.454.1439 | AllisonG@VisitCanton.com

About ArtsInStark:

ArtsInStark, Stark County’s arts council, is a 50-year-old nonprofit that uses the arts to create smarter kids, new jobs, and healthier communities. The organization represents over 900 cultural organizations, individual artists, and owns and manages the Cultural Center for the Arts.

ArtsInStark Contact: David Whitehill | President & CEO | 330.409.7799 | dawwhitehill@artsinstark.com