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## **ART EXPRESSION, INC. RECEIVES EQT FOUNDATION GRANT**

**Pittsburgh, PA** - The EQT Foundation is awarding Art Expression, Inc. a \$5,000 grant to support after-school arts enrichment programming in the Central Greene School District (Waynesburg, PA) during the 2018-2019 school year.

The EQT Foundation helps communities prosper by supporting programs and organizations that reflect the values of EQT Corporation. “We are grateful to receive this grant and to be able to continue our partnership with Central Greene School District,” says Angela Lowden, founder and executive director of Art Expression Inc. “Our organization is dedicated and committed to supporting youth through the arts. We are delighted that the EQT Foundation supports the value that after-school arts programming brings to children in rural communities.”

Art Expression provides non-judgmental, inclusive, free of charge programming that bridges social-emotional learning with other academics, arts, cultural and STEAM concepts.

After-school programming will commence at the Margaret Bell Miller Middle School during the Fall 2018 semester with the ARTistic Dreamers series. Each weekly session focuses on a specific art medium such as painting, clay, print making, fiber art, and collage. Students are introduced to noteworthy artists, new art terms, and activities that foster self-expression and creativity. Each student receives a sketchbook in which to write daily definitions of art terms and follow writing prompts that generate ideas and spark creativity. At the close of the program, the classroom is transformed into a gallery where students can see their artwork on display.

**About the Art Expression, Inc**

Art Expression, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that was founded by James and Angela Lowden in 2001 as an expression of their passion for alleviating the social inequalities that exist among children of different abilities and backgrounds. It is a fully inclusive after-school program, offered free of charge to students, that focuses on developing social and emotional learning through the arts in the Pittsburgh area. Art and music therapy is not performed during the sessions, but some components of both are used to develop positive outcomes for students. The organization's mission is to provide social and emotional learning through the arts and provide academic enrichment in an inclusive setting. Its programming fosters creativity and imagination and enhances self-esteem for children in schools, homeless shelters and community organizations. Art Expression is a two-time finalist (2013 and 2017) for the National Arts and the Humanities Youth Program Awards, distinguishing the organization as one of the top 50 arts and humanities-based programs in the U.S. Art Expression has also received certificates of excellence from the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Art Expression was designated as a "Model Art Therapy Program" by the American Association of School Administrators and the American Art Therapy Association in 2011. Since its founding the organization has served over 10,000 children in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

### **About the EQT Foundation**

EQT is proud to be a part of the many communities where we operate and where our employees live and work. We believe strongly that giving back is just the right thing to do - and we've stayed true to that mission since the EQT Foundation was established in 2003 as a dedicated resource for financial, in-kind and volunteer support to those communities touched by our business.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$50 million to nonprofits in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia that are making a difference in the lives of the individuals and families they serve. The Foundation is committed to supporting the education of our children; the development of diverse, livable communities; preserving environmental resources; and promoting a greater appreciation for the arts.

The EQT Foundation believes in meaningful engagement with the communities it calls home and takes great pride in the role as both a responsible and responsive corporate citizen. The Foundation focuses its resources on areas that have a direct effect on the stability of communities and in turn, contribute to the success of its business operations in those areas.