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ART EXPRESSION, INC. AWARDED SUPPORT FROM PITTSBURGH CHILD GUIDANCE FOUNDATION, BLICK ART MATERIALS AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Pittsburgh, PA - Art Expression, Inc, is partnering with local and national sponsors to provide programming for Pittsburgh area youth after-school and in homeless shelters. These partners include Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation, Blick Art Materials and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation has awarded Art Expression, Inc. a grant for \$5,000 to provide 24 workshops in four local homeless shelters. The shelter partners for this project include Womanspace East, Sisters Place, Sojourner's House, and Auberle's 412 Youth Zone.



Art Expression, Inc. has refined and will be piloting an expansion of their From the HeART workshop programming. The new version provides additional focus on allowing parents and children to gain social and emotional skills. Parents will be given the opportunity to do the same art activities as their children to promote self-expression and collaboration among family members. Parents will be taught about the developmental stages of drawing and

art, giving them insight on age-appropriate materials and how to adjust for children with special needs. “Our goal is to help parents walk away with techniques to help them feel more confident making art, and healing alongside their children, as a family.” says Angela Lowden, founder and executive director of Art Expression Inc.

Art supplies for these workshops have been donated through Blick Art Materials' annual “Give and Get” holiday drive. Customers can donate purchased art supplies to organizations like Art Expression, Inc. in exchange for a special store coupon during

the holidays. The 2018 holiday season was the **5th year** for this **collaboration** between Blick Art Materials and Art Expression, Inc. finishing with a **record-breaking total of \$6932.98** in supplies, rivaling collections in places like **Chicago and Manhattan**.

The **Homeless Children's Educational Fund (HCEF)** continues to support Art Expression as a collaborative partner. Since 2012, Art Expression, Inc. has provided it's From the HeART arts workshops in conjunction with HCEF's Building Blocks Afterschool Program. HCEF has provided **Art Expression workshops in many area homeless shelters including those we will partner with for this grant**. The HCEF staff has also supported our staff in learning how best to understand and serve homeless mothers and children. Although HCEF will not take an active role in this project, they have promised to continue their advisory and supportive role to the Art Expression staff members work with local homeless populations.

The **National Endowment for the Arts** has awarded Art Expression, Inc. a **\$10,000 grant** to support **after-school arts enrichment programming** in the **Trinity Area School District, Charleroi Area School District, and Central Greene School Districts** during the 2018-2019 school year.

Matching funds for this NEA grant have been provided by the Community Foundation of Greene County and UBS Global Wealth Management. The support of **\$2,500** from the **Community Foundation of Greene County** was made possible by grants from the **Peters Family Memorial Fund and the Rotary Club of Waynesburg Charitable Fund**. **UBS Global Wealth Management** also provided **\$2,500**. To date, these organizations have contributed a total of **\$5,000** in matching funds.

Each school district served by this NEA grant has the opportunity to choose from among Art Expression's specialty programs. Options include Art Expression's flagship program, Creative pARTners, as well as themed variations that offer instruction in a variety of topics. These specialty programs include STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programming such as EcoSmART, StART Growing, ARTchitecture: Building Bridges, ARTmostphere: Weather, ARTletic, ARTistic Dreamers and the ARTvenues in History series. All the classes explore metaphors that relate to the students' lives as expressed through their art projects.

About the Art Expression, Inc

Art Expression, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization providing 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. 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. To learn more about Art Expression, Inc. [CLICK HERE](#).

About the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation

The Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation is dedicated to improving the emotional health and well-being of children and youth living in Allegheny County by providing grants and collaborating with public and private organizations to implement innovative policies, practices and programs.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates American's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more about NEA.

About the Community Foundation of Greene County

The Community Foundation of Greene County (CFGC), a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2000, is the central philanthropic vehicle in Greene County for donations of various types and sizes. It builds community capital by professionally managing permanent donor endowment funds and strategically making grants that meet the current and emerging needs of the community. CFGC currently manages \$5 million in assets through more than 80 different funds.

About UBS Global Wealth Management

UBS is the world's largest wealth manager with a presence in 23 countries. Their advisors provide expert advice, innovative solutions and execution to corporate, institutional and wealth management clients as well as comprehensive access to the world's capital markets.