

Vibrant Communities Grant Awarded

The Arts & Innovation Magnet Program Awarded ‘Vibrant Communities’ Grant from Georgia Council for the Arts

ATLANTA— The Arts & Innovation Magnet Program in Barrow County was awarded a Vibrant Communities grant from Georgia Council for the Arts, a strategic arm of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, for fiscal year 2024. The Vibrant Communities Grant supports a variety of arts programming throughout the state, including murals, artist residencies and performances in schools, community theater productions, festivals, and concerts. As part of this year’s Vibrant Communities awards, 58 entities in 43 counties will receive over \$255,700 in funding.

“Arts funding is crucial for the cultivation of vibrant, thriving communities, and Georgia Council for the Arts is excited to help our arts organizations achieve their mission, enhance downtowns, and support small businesses,” said **Georgia Council for the Arts Director Tina Lilly**. “We hear from grantees about how the investment of these dollars provides long-term benefits for organizations and communities, and we are grateful to the Georgia General Assembly for providing this support to improve quality of life across the state.”

Georgia Council for the Arts received applications from schools, libraries, cities, historical societies, community theatres, Boys & Girls Clubs, and arts and other related organizations. In an effort to support projects across the state, Vibrant Communities grants were awarded to entities in counties in which no organization had already received Georgia Council for the Arts funding for the fiscal year 2024 grants cycle.

“Our grant, Putting the Pieces Together, students and teachers will participate in the planning, designing, and implementation of a sculpture to add to the growing Sculpture Garden at the Center for Innovative Teaching. This sculpture is inspired by the work of Mosaic Artist, Isaiah Zagar and will incorporate content learned throughout the school year. Students will tell their own personal story through individual mosaic pieces that will be brought together in a cohesive installation with the help of Artist and ArtsNOW consultant, Shannon Green. Students and teachers are excited to create this installation this spring!”

Funding for these grants is provided through appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly.

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About Georgia Council for the Arts

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development whose mission is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding, programs, and services statewide that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state’s cultural heritage, increase tourism, and nurture strong communities. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Visit www.gaarts.org for more information.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state’s sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and

small businesses, align workforce education and training with in-demand jobs, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. Visit www.georgia.org for more information.

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