



AGENDA
Evanston Arts Council
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center Room 2404 6:30 PM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. [September 14, 2021 Art Council Meeting Minutes](#) 4 - 6

4. CONSIDERATION

- A. **Approval of Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Request** 7 - 10

Staff recommends Arts Council approval of one Neighborhood Arts Grant funding request from the following applicant:

In The Realm Of Senses - A multi-sensory concert celebrating Beethoven's 250th - \$1000

For FY 2021, \$15,000 was allocated to the Neighborhood Arts Grant (GL#100.15.1580.66040). To date, \$8,000 remains for this program.

For Action

[Approval of Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Request - Attachment - Pdf](#)

- B. **Request to change the payee of the 2021 Cultural Grant Award** 11

Staff recommends the Art Council consider the request from the Evanston Public Library in partnership with Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre to change the payee of the 2021 Cultural Grant Awarded to the applicant ASE.

For Action

[Request to change the payee of the 2021 Cultural Grant Award - Attachment - Pdf](#)

C. **Election of Evanston Art Council Chair and Vice-Chair** 12

Staff recommends members of the Arts Council vote to elect the next Chair and Vice Chair of the Evanston Art Council.

For Action

[Election of Evanston Art Council Chair and Vice-Chair - Attachment - Pdf](#)

D. **Approval of Amended Contract services Agreement between the City of Evanston and the Chicago Public Art Group** 13 - 18

Staff recommends the Art Council consider approval of an additional \$4,800 to the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) for new proposed design and placement location. Funding will be from the General Fund (Account 100.19.1932.62340)

For Action

[Approval of Amended Contract services Agreement between the City of Evanston and the Chicago Public Art Group - Attachment - Pdf](#)

E. **Community Resiliency through the Arts Proposal** 19 - 23

The Art Council's working group recommends members of the Arts Council review and accept the **revised** draft proposal for allocating \$50,000 of Northwestern University Equity Fund.

For Action

[Northwestern Good Neighbor Fund Proposal - Attachment - Pdf](#)

5. DISCUSSION

A. **2021 Nominations for Mayor's Awards for the Arts** 24 - 51

Staff recommends members of the Arts Council consider the nominations submitted for the Mayor's Awards for the Arts.

For Discussion

[2021 Nominations for Mayor's Awards for the Arts - Attachment - Pdf](#)

B. **Review of proposed mission, vision, and values the Evanston Art Council** 52 - 54

Chair of the Art Council, Toby Sachs, recommends members of the Arts Council set a one-time meeting to review the mission, vision and values

of the Evanston Arts Council.

For Discussion

[Review of proposed mission, vision, and values the Evanston Art Council - Attachment - Pdf](#)

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chair Update

Evanston Arts Council Annual Update

55 - 66

Chair of the Art Council, Toby Sachs, recommends members of the Arts Council accept and place on file the Evanston Art Council annual report.

For Action: Accept and Place on File

[Evanston Arts Council Annual Update - Attachment - Pdf](#)

B. Public Art Working Group Update

C. Staff Update

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Order & Agenda Items are subject to change. Information about the Arts Council is available at:

cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/arts-council

Questions can be directed to Tasheik Kerr 847-866-5076

The city is committed to ensuring accessibility for all citizens; If an accommodation is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact this Department 48 hours in advance so that arrangements can be made for the accommodation if possible.

1 **Present:** Alfonso Nieves Ruiz, Melissa Molitor, Krista Fabian DeCastro, Lisa Corrin,
2 Chantal Healey, Taichi Fukumura, Maasai Amewa, Toby Sachs, Chair, Angela Williams,
3 BJ Jones, James Deeb, Vice-chair

4 **Absent:** Indira Johnson

5 **Others Present:** Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager

6

7 **CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

8 Toby Sachs, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

9 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

10 No one was present for public comment.

11 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

12 James Deeb, the Vice-chair, noted he had submitted edits to the minutes. It was moved
13 by James, seconded by Lisa, to approve the amended minutes of the July 13, 2021
14 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

15 **CONSIDERATION**

16 **Approval of Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Request**

17 Katie Prentiss Onsager and Jamie Fleischel, Executive Producers/Directors of Small
18 Forces, provided the Art Council a summary of the project: "If A-Town Had A King," a
19 feature documentary project & educational campaign honoring iconic Evanston figure
20 Hecky Powell. Jamie shared that they are working with the Powell Foundation on the
21 project. The documentary would be a broadcast television event. There would be a
22 community screening prior to the broadcast premiere.

23 Art Council member Krista inquired how the black community would be involved in the
24 project. Jamie responded that high school students would be part of the production and
25 that they would be paid. A black Evanston resident and cinematographer would also be
26 involved in the project.

27 In response to fundraising, there would be a soft launch held on Palm Sunday of 2022
28 in partnership with the Evanston Work Ethic Program's (WE Program). Funds are also
29 being raised through the Powell Foundation, Northwestern University, and corporate
30 brands.

31 Art Council member Melissa inquired about the use of the profit from the film. Jamie
32 responded that the production of the film is a partnership between Small Forces and the
33 Powell Foundation.

34 It was moved by Maasai, seconded by Krista, to approve the Neighborhood Arts Grant
35 Funding Request for the project “If A-Town Had A King”.

36 **Approval of Northwestern Good Neighbor Fund Proposal**

37 Toby provided a summary of the working group efforts regarding the Northwestern
38 Good Neighbor Fund proposal. Toby noted the group held listening sessions including a
39 session with 15 social service organizations. From the feedback received, it was
40 concluded that most of the social service organizations in attendance had experience
41 working with an arts organization. The social service organizations were not aware of
42 what else had been done with the community. The working group explored ways to
43 support the connection between arts organizations and social service organizations.

44 Members of the Arts Council provided feedback regarding the proposal. Feedback
45 included the creation of a budget for each individual partnership, revising the evaluation
46 metrics, being mindful of artists’ backgrounds pertaining to working with mental health
47 individuals, allowing social service providers to select artists, allowing arts organizations
48 to select artists to participate, and requiring artists to have insurance coverage.

49 Regarding whether the application should be open to artists or art organizations, the
50 majority of the Art Council agreed to open the application to artists and art
51 organizations. Lisa noted her concern regarding the environment for artists and
52 participants. Melissa voiced her concern that artists would need more support in such a
53 project. Maasai noted that there are artists that have experience working with social
54 service organizations and would qualify. Art Council member Angela added that the
55 working group would engage both artists and social service organizations in an initial
56 conversation.

57 Melissa recommended specifying relevant experience. Art Council member Taichi
58 recommended changing the language to “preparedness.”

59 The Art Council tabled its decision on the proposal to its October 12 meeting.

60

61 **5. DISCUSSION**

62 **A. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair**

63 James Deeb noted he would not be seeking re-election for vice-chair. Toby noted
64 nominations are open until the October meeting. Toby nominated Massai for vice-
65 chair.

66 **B. Bright Night**

67 Toby and Melissa shared an update on “A Bright Night”. “A Bright Night” would be held
68 on Thursday, November 4, 2021 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Evanston Art Center. Toby
69 outlined the setup and organization of the event. Lisa recommended having a video that
70 depicts people saying why the arts are important to the City of Evanston. Melissa
71 recommended placing past winners of the A Bright Night Award on the webpage.

72 **C. Recap of September 11, 2021 Retreat**

73 Toby shared a summary of the feedback pertaining to the Arts Council’s mission, vision,
74 and values. Toby volunteered to share a google document for members to provide
75 feedback.

76 **COMMUNICATIONS**

77 **A. Chair Update**

78 no update

79 **B. Public Art Working Group Update**

80 Chantal noted the Public Art working group provided recommendations regarding the
81 Bird mural installation submitted by Art Encounter. The group also discussed holding a
82 dedication ceremony at Robert Crown

83 **D. Staff Update**

84 Tasheik provided an update on the Mural Checklist to replace the DAPR approval
85 process, Fountain Square RFQ, and 927 Noyes Street Contract with Chicago Public Art
86 Group

87 The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Approval of Neighborhood Arts Grant Funding Request
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends Arts Council approval of one Neighborhood Arts Grant funding request from the following applicant:

In The Realm Of Senses - A multi-sensory concert celebrating Beethoven's 250th - \$1000

Funding Source:

For FY 2021, \$15,000 was allocated to the Neighborhood Arts Grant(GL#100.15.1580.66040). To date, \$8,000 remains for this program.

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

The Neighborhood Arts Grant is a grant awarded by the Evanston Arts Council to support small art projects by organizations and individual artists in Evanston. The current guidelines of the program award up to \$1,000 or 50% of the project, whichever is less. An excerpt from the funding request staff received is below:

This is a multi-sensory concert celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday featuring his string quartet Op.59 No.2 performed in front of a unique floral art installation called "Strings Attached" and also with a paired perfume-based on the second movement of the music. In the second half, there is an original composition based on the Beethoven string quartet, performed to a live painting by artist Sergio Gomez.

Attachments:

[In The Realm Of Senses Neighborhood Arts Grant Program \[#17\]](#)

Neighborhood Arts Grant Program

#17

DATE CREATED - PUBLIC
16 Sep 2021 at 8:08
8:08:04 PM UTC-06:00

Have you read the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program Guidelines? *

Yes

Have you received funding from the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program in the last three (3) years? (Previously known as the Community Support Fund) *

No

If "yes," please list all Neighborhood Arts Grants (previously known as the Community Support Fund) received in the last three (3) years. Include date, amount, and name of project.

Primary Contact Name *

Jeff Yang

Organization (if applicable)

In The Realm Of Senses

Address *

Evanston, IL 60201
United States

Email *

info@intherealmofsenses.com

Phone Number *

Amount requested (Please note that this program supports up to to 50% of the project's total budget to a maximum of \$1,000; the budget may include in-kind donations) *

1000

Please upload a complete project budget which details the expenses for the entire project. Indicate where other revenue is coming from and what items this fund will go towards procuring. *



beethoven__art_budget_1.xlsx
10.3KB · XLSX

Is this an ongoing program that you will be requesting funding for in subsequent years?

No

Please describe your project. Include details about what disciplines, genres, and subject matters are involved. What do you hope are the outcomes of the project? *

This is a multi-sensory concert celebrating Beethoven's 250th birthday featuring his string quartet Op.59 No.2 performed in front of a unique floral art installation called "Strings Attached" and also with a paired perfume based on the second movement of the music. In the second half there is an original composition based on the Beethoven string quartet, performed to a live painting by artist Sergio Gomez.

We hope to celebrate the incredible music of Beethoven in his 250th birth year (a year late due to Covid) by featuring his enigmatic string quartet and also create a unique live art piece with improvised music with scents to inspire the audience with what can be done with immersive art in new ways. The sense of smell is a sense that is under-used in the field of art and we want to accentuate the importance of scent by having a perfumer design a unique perfume based on the music of Beethoven for a truly unique immersive experience.

Please provide a timetable for your project/program/event:

We have been in production of the show for three months and will perform the concert on Oct 29th at the Evanston Art Center

Please list those who will be involved in the project. (Lead organizer, lead artist, heads of organizations, etc.) Please include a brief 2-3 sentence biography for each of those listed detailing their expertise, relevance to the project, and their relation to the City of Evanston. *

Jeff Yang, violinist, curator of sensory art, Artistic Director of In The Realm Of Senses, owner of Chicago Strings violin shop in Evanston, a former violinist for the band Mannheim Steamroller, Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, Chicago Philharmonic, and concertmaster of Skokie Valley Symphony.

Nick Photinos, cellist and educator, funder and former member of the four-time Grammy winning group Eighth Blackbird who have been in residence at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and he is co-Artistic Director of Chamber Music Bethany in Chicago.

Sergio Gomez, artist and Director of Exhibition at Zhao B. Art Center in Bridgeport, founder of art coaching academy Art NXT Level, and founder of Amplified Art Network.






Stacey Bal, floral artist, author of the book "Impenmanent" in 2020, educator, consultant and event designer in Chicago, board member of In The Realm Of Senses.

Ugo Charron, perfumer of Mane USA in New York, former junior perfumer to esteemed perfumer, Christophe Laudamiel

Mathias Tacke, violinist, faculty at Northwestern University, Northern Illinois University, and former second violinist for the world renowned Vermeer String Quartet.

How will this project be available to the Evanston community? How will you promote the event to the community? What do you project to be the size of the

This event will be performed at the Evanston Art Center on Oct 29, 2021. We will promote the event through our advertising channels on FB, Instagram, do312, as well as Eventbrite. Downtown Evanston as well as Evanston Made will help promote our shows in the community.

audience? How many Evanston residents will benefit? *	We project the audience size to be 55-80 and we hope most of the audience will come from Evanston locally.
What are your plans to make this project inclusive, diverse, and equitable? *	We are keeping our ticket prices as low as possible to allow for as many people of all income levels to attend. Of course, we will need help from Grants and donations to make this event possible. This is an all-ages show to expose people of all ages to immersive art and art creation.
Is there a fee to access this event/program/project?	Yes
If yes, how much?	50
Timetable	 timetable_eac.xlsx 5.1KB · XLSX
Attach a File	 cda_6630.jpg 4.2MB · JPG
Attach a File	 cda_6716.jpg 2.4MB · JPG
Attach a File	 screenshot20200618at9.14.09pm.png 774.2KB · PNG
Attach a File	 cda_6777.jpg 2.6MB · JPG
Attach a File	
I agree to all the terms and conditions of the Neighborhood Arts Grant Program.	Yes
Digital signature. I attest that the above information is true.	Jeff Yang
IP ADDRESS:	



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Request to change the payee of the 2021 Cultural Grant Award
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends the Art Council consider the request from the Evanston Public Library in partnership with Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre to change the payee of the 2021 Cultural Grant Awarded to the applicant ASE.

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

The Evanston Public Library in partnership with Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre are writing to request a change in the way our \$1000 award from the Arts Council for the Cultural Fund Grant will be paid. We would like the funds to be distributed directly to Dr. Stephanie Davenport, the storyteller affiliated with ASE (the Chicago Association of Black Storytellers) the storyteller who performed the work. Dr. Davenport is closely connected to ASE, serving as the President of the Chicago chapter. EPL and FJT had a previous working relationship with her and invited her participation in the Intergenerational Storytelling project.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Election of Evanston Art Council Chair and Vice-Chair
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends members of the Arts Council vote to elect the next Chair and Vice Chair of the Evanston Art Council.

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

Members of the Evanston Arts Council were instructed to submit nominations for Chair and Vice Chair prior to the October 12 meeting. Staff received the two nominations below.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Approval of Amended Contract services Agreement between the City of Evanston and the Chicago Public Art Group
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends the Art Council consider approval of an additional \$4,800 to the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) for new proposed design and placement location.

Funding Source:

Funding will be from the General Fund (Account 100.19.1932.62340)

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

In July 2019, the City entered into a Contractor Services Agreement with the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) for the design of a wall sculpture at the northern exterior wall of the Noyes Street CTA Station Garage. Due to a denial of approval from CTA and the delay caused by the pandemic, a final design had not been approved.

In July, the Public Art Working Group considered this issue and voted to move forward with obtaining new designs for a 3D plexiglass sculpture to be placed outside of the Noyes Cultural Arts Center (927 Noyes Street) instead. Since this is a change in art medium, new location, and a new design, CPAG has requested an additional \$4,800 to complete the work.

The total budget for this project now stands at \$20,800. \$10,000 was provided by the developer of 826-828 Noyes, and \$6,000 was allocated by the Evanston Arts Council. An additional 4,800 is requested from the Evanston Arts Council.

Attachments:

[First Amendment to Professional Services Agreement - CPAG](#)

FIRST AMENDMENT to CONTRACTOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EVANSTON AND CHICAGO PUBLIC ART GROUP (this "Amendment") is made as of the 30 day of September, 2021, by and between **THE CITY OF EVANSTON**, an Illinois municipal corporation (hereinafter referred to as "**City**") and **CHICAGO PUBLIC ART GROUP** (hereinafter referred to as "**Artist**"). The City and Contractor shall be referred to collectively as the "Parties".

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the City and Artist entered into a Contractor Services Agreement dated July 15, 2019 (the "Agreement") (the terms and conditions of which are incorporated herein as Exhibit "A") commissioning large-scale outdoor artwork to be placed on the northern exterior wall of the Noyes Street CTA Station Garage ("CTA Station Garage"); and

WHEREAS, the proposed artwork will no longer be mounted on the CTA Station Garage and instead will be placed at the Noyes Cultrual Arts Center, located at 927 Noyes Street in the City of Evanston; and

WHEREAS, Artist requests an additional \$4,800.00 in compensation for the new proposed artwork and new placement location; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual observance of the covenants, conditions and promises set forth below and the parties agree as follows:

I. AGREEMENT IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT; DEFINITIONS

The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Amendment shall supercede, control and be deemed to modify the terms of the Agreement. In the event of any conflict between the terms and conditions of this Amendment and the terms of the Agreement, the parties unconditionally agree that the terms and conditions of this Amendment shall supercede, prevail and dictate. Any term or condition of the Agreement not addressed within this Amendment remain in full force and effect. The above-referenced recitals are incorporated herein.

II. ARTICLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

Paragraph 1.2 of the Agreement is amended to reflect the following:

1.2 The Work is commissioned for placement a the Noyes Street Cultrual Center, located at 972 Noyes Street in Evanston, Illinois.

III. ARTICLE 3. PRICE AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Article 3 of the Agreement is amended to reflect the following:

As payment for the services of Artist and the work, subject to the conditions set forth herein, the City shall pay the Artist a sum not to exceed \$20,800.00 as follows:

- 3.1 \$1,040 – Five percent (5%) for the design phase, upon execution of this Agreement.
- 3.2 \$5,200 – Twenty-five percent (25%) upon approval from all Parties and finalization of site.
- 3.3 \$7,280 – Thirty-five percent (35%) upon fifty percent (50%) of completion, as evidenced by a sworn written statement from the Artist, in form and content satisfactory to the City.
- 3.4 \$7,280 – Forty-five percent (35%) after final acceptance by the City, completion of installation, transfer of title to the City and completion of all acts required of Artist by this written Agreement.
- 3.5 All payments to Artist will be mailed to Artist within sixty (60) days of receipt of invoices from Artist for above referenced amounts, pending City Council approval of said payment at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

IV. ARTICLE 12. MISCELLANEOUS:

Article 12 is amended to include the following:

- 12.5 Counterparts. This Amendment may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument. For purposes of this Amendment, facsimile and scanned signatures shall be considered the same as original signatures and shall be treated as valid and binding upon the parties hereto, provided, however, the parties shall exchange original signature pages as reasonably promptly following execution hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Amendment to be executed the day and year first above written.

CITY OF EVANSTON,
an Illinois municipal corporation

ARTIST:

By: _____

By: M Pavkovic

Print Name: Erika Storlie

Print Name: Maryrose Pavkovic

Its: City Manager

Its: Managing Director

EXHIBIT "A"

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF EVANST AND CHICAGO PUBLIC ART GROUP

EXHIBIT "B"
PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Community Resiliency through the Arts Proposal
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

The Art Council's working group recommends members of the Arts Council review and accept the **revised** draft proposal for allocating \$50,000 of Northwestern University Equity Fund.

Council Action:

For Action

Summary:

The Evanston Arts Council has been tasked to distribute \$50,000 of the Racial Equity Fund to support building community resiliency through the arts. This Community Resiliency Through the Arts Fund will mobilize artists and cultural and social service organizations to improve the quality of life and amplify voices in underserved communities.

Needs assessment

The Working group conducted individual interviews with two arts organizations whose mission is centered on building resiliency and a town hall meeting with fifteen social service organizations providing a range of social services. Almost all the social service organizations had some experience with utilizing arts programs to support their mission, and the experience was generally very positive. They were mostly not aware of what other organizations had done and became interested in discussing and learning from others' experiences.

Art played a role to support their mission in many ways, including restoring the whole person, centering the individual, providing a form of non-verbal expression, and boosting self-confidence through a variety of drop-in and engagement projects. Programs were mostly in groups and conducted by partnering with an arts organization. Such programs are valuable now more than ever, coming out of the pandemic. Arts programs would be useful in building staff resilience as well as for clients of the organizations.

Attachments:

[Arts Council Working Group- NU Good neighbor funds proposal revised](#)

Arts Council NU Good Neighbor Fund Working Group
Draft proposal



Background

The Evanston Arts Council has been tasked to distribute \$50,000 of the Good Neighbor Racial Equity Fund, to support Building Community Resiliency through the Arts. This funding will mobilize artists and cultural and social service organizations to improve the quality of life and amplify voices in underserved communities.

Project Purpose

An opportunity to spark partnerships between existing social services organizations and arts organizations/artists in Evanston.

Proposal

Fund five arts residencies for social service organizations @ \$10,000 each.

Process

1. Open call to 501c3 social service providers serving Evanston to apply. Keep it simple: just ask for a letter of interest, maximum two pages, which explains why they would like to receive a \$10,000 art residency to provide an arts program that will align with their mission and help to improve the quality of life and amplify voices in underserved communities. Ask how they will include the population they serve in decision making and planning of the project. They can request to work with a particular arts organization or artist if they wish, otherwise, if selected, we will offer suitable matches for them to consider.

Specify the criteria that will be used to select residencies: 50% improving quality of life for underserved communities, 30% impact on Evanston, 20% plans to include the population served in planning of the project.

Scope, form and timing of the arts program to be decided with the arts organization/artist after the grant is awarded.

2. Working group recommends and Arts Council approves selected five social service organizations.

3. Open call to local arts organizations and artists to apply for residencies. Details of the selected social service applications provided. Arts organizations and individual artists are both welcome to apply. Evanston-based arts organizations and artists are preferred.

Again, keep it simple: just ask for a letter of interest, maximum two pages, which explains why they would like to provide a \$10,000 art residency to one of the selected social service providers, that will help to improve the quality of life and amplify voices in underserved communities. Ask how they will include the population to be served in decision making and planning of the project.

Specify the criteria that will be used to select artists or arts organizations: 50% relevant experience and preparedness, 30% passion for the project, 20% plans to include the population served in planning of the project.

Scope, form and timing of the arts program to be decided with the social service organizations, after the grant is awarded.

4. Working group recommends artists/arts organizations to Arts Council. Selected artists/arts organizations are then introduced to the selected social service providers. After appropriate discussions between them, matches are finalized.

5. Grants are made to the arts organizations/ artists, with 11 months to design and complete the residency, working with the recipient organization.

6. A simple free-format letter reporting activities, results, learnings and demographics of participants is required from the artist/arts organizations by 4/30/23. Funding by the Good Neighbor Fund for Racial Equity should be acknowledged in published materials.

Schedule

10/12	Guidelines approved by Arts Council
10/25 – 11/30/21	Call for social services applications
12/14	Five social service providers selected by Arts Council
1/3/22 – 1/31/22	Call for artists/arts organizations
2/8/22	Artists/arts organizations shortlist selected by Arts Council

By 3/31/22	Social service organizations and artists/arts organizations meet, have discussions and confirm matches
4/12/22	Grants awarded by Arts Council
By 3/31/23	Residencies completed
4/30/23	Reports due

Additional opportunities arising

- There may be an opportunity to match some applicants among the social service and the artists/.orgs to consider forming partnerships, beyond the five that we can fund.
- We should look for a mechanism to share experiences, learnings and opportunities on an ongoing basis between social service providers and our arts community. There is a lot going on but little sharing of ideas and experience.



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: 2021 Nominations for Mayor's Awards for the Arts
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends members of the Arts Council consider the nominations submitted for the Mayor's Awards for the Arts.

Council Action:

For Discussion

Summary:

Community members were asked to nominate an Evanston artist or arts organization by email and up to 500 words on why they are deserving of the award by Thursday, October 7 at noon. Staff received 51 nominations by the deadline. Nominations are attached.

Attachments:

[Nominations for Mayor's Award 2021](#)



Nominations for Mayor's Award for the Arts 2021

#	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominator</u>
1	Jack Lerman	Barb Bronson
2	Beth Adler	Ruth Sikes
3	Lisa Degliantoni	Jean Cunningham
4, 5	Doug Haight	21 signatories
6	David Safran	Emma Morris
7	Tim Rhoze	Carol Liner
8	Chip Covington	2 signatories
9	Hope Washinushi	Sarah Laing
10	Dr. Julia Davids	Karen Rigotti/EDE
11	Creative Coworking	Melanie Deal
12 – 30	Evanston Children's Choir	19 signatories
31 – 40	Evanston Symphony Orchestra	10 signatories
41	Identity Performing Arts	Sharon Myers
42, 43	Art Encounter/EMAP	2 signatories
44	2 nd Act Players	John N. Frank
45	Hope for Artists Arts Community	Linda Sylvester
46	Evanston Performing Arts Collective	Penelope Sachs
47	Evanston Dance Ensemble	16 signatories
48	Studio3/Kids Create Change	Becky Huston
49	Music Institute of Chicago	Lisa Brown
50	Funkadesi	Judy Newton
51	Youth Chorus of the North Shore	Claire Labbe

1. Jack Lerman

Jack Lerman, who is still living in Evanston, taught the practice of art and art appreciation for over 60 years at Evanston grade schools, the Civic Center and the Levy Senior Center and continues to create and show his own artwork. I first took an art class of his while at Haven Junior High School and most recently (before COVID) attended classes he offered at Levy. He is quietly amazing.

Barb Bronson

2. Beth Adler

I nominate Beth Adler. She has had her studio in Evanston for many years and always hosts open houses as well as promoting the arts and other artists. Her art is always fresh and evolving in new and interesting ways. She exemplifies what an artist is and does for the community.

Ruth Sikes

3. Lisa Degliantoni

Lisa Degliantoni is my candidate for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. She is the founder of Evanston Made www.evanstonmade.org and is an amazing source of energy and vision for Evanston Arts.

Jean Cunningham

4. Doug Haight

I nominate Doug Haight from Perspective Gallery for the award. We, as a team member of the project, See My Story we're awarded a grant from the committee. The month long exhibit sharing the photos and narratives of both homeless and recently housed individuals has been a viable exhibit and provided several Evanston organizations, including Rotary, Women's Club, Beacon school, Interfaith Action Council, Connections, Donors and general public exposure to the issue of homelessness in Evanston. Many of the clients photographed and interviewed were on site for exhibits and discussed their plights and personal pride in sharing their stories to the exhibit attendees. The project required an intense commitment to telling the story of Homeless in Evanston.

Jeff Forgash

5. Doug Haight

Passionate about creating compelling images that tell powerful stories Doug's exhibit, See My Story at Perspectives Gallery displays his sensitive, artistic talent with life-sized portraits and intimate stories of Evanston's homeless citizens through the lens of our shared humanity. This project began in 2017 when Doug attended a Connections for the Homeless luncheon. He was so moved by the presentation and asked, "What can I do to help? Can my photography help make a difference in people's lives?" Working with project partners, Connections for the Homeless and Interfaith Action, this community based project invited local homeless individuals to share their personal narratives to provide a deeper understanding of their often-complicated lives. Doug spent countless hours "hanging out", getting to know homeless individuals. His patience, empathy and gentle manner of building trust led to many agreeing to be photographed and to share their stories. Over time, Doug built relationships with the individuals he photographed. He has been to their homes, knows them personally and is now in an

unexpected community of friends. “This has been the most rewarding part of this project.” From the start, Doug knew he wanted participants to look directly at the camera – and look back to the viewer. The photos were made in locations that are significant to the participant. Doug felt passionately that merely viewing photographs in a gallery was not enough. He hosted sixteen community groups (300+participants) in sessions designed to encourage dialogue. At each gathering, he was joined by individuals who were photographed to share their stories and engage in dialogue with participants.

- Kyle has been homeless since 2018. “I would sleep at the Burger King. At 7 am we were kicked out – went to Sue’s (Interfaith Action Hospitality Center) and actually got to lay down on yoga mats.”
- Chris has been homeless on and off for the last 20 years for “doing the wrong stuff” and making some bad decisions. He now has an apartment. “It’s a blessing,” he says.

Reactions from those viewing the photographs:

- “Looking at the life-sized portraits, standing next to the portraits – I could see the person – I felt I was standing with them. I could look into their eyes and feel their emotions.”
- “His photography vividly captures each person’s emotions leaving the images emblazoned in my soul.”
- “In addition to raising awareness and understanding of homelessness, we heard each photographed person speak as a unique, valuable individual.”

Doug stated, “I hope that these portraits and stories encourage you to see someone experiencing homelessness as a person deserving to be recognized as part of this community, worthy of a moment of your time and attention. Even more so, I hope the subjects of these photographs see themselves with greater self-esteem, equality, and opportunity.” Page 2 of 2 – Nomination of Doug Haight – Mayor’s Awards for the Arts Our hope is that Doug’s intimate portrayal of our homeless citizens gives us a deeper understanding and awakens us to take action to address the systemic social justice issues of homelessness. This is a story that needs to be shared.

Evanston Lighthouse Rotary Club Leadership Team – 2021-22: Harold Bauer, Bruce Baumberger, Sue Bova, Kristin Brown, Kate Collinson, Linda Gerber, Steve Goranson, Chris Joyce, Charlotta Koppanyi, Jackie Mack, Patrick Mbullo, Helen Oloroso, Katherine Peterson, Nick Powers, Jean Saunders, Ann Searles, Kathy Tate-Bradish, Bryant Wallace, Ann Weatherhead, and Clarence Weaver

6. David Safran

My name is Emma Morris, Acquisitions Manager at Newberry Library and an Evanston resident. I’m nominating South Evanston singer-songwriter, musician, and essayist, David Safran, for this year’s Mayor’s Awards for the Arts.

Though 37-year-old Safran hasn’t achieved the same level of commercial success as many of his peers, this Chicagoland music scene veteran—professionally recording and performing since his adolescence—is nevertheless an acclaimed figure with a catalogue of “boundary-breaking tunes,” to quote a recent Northwestern WNUR profile. Tony Sarabia, the Edward R. Murrow Award-winning host of WBEZ’s Morning Shift, compared Safran’s sound to “David Bowie from around ‘Heroes.’” Another former Chicago Public Media host, Jesse Menendez, offered this striking observation: “There’s a certain sadness and honesty in [Safran’s] voice that I haven’t heard since one Johnny Cash.”

In addition to being a songwriter’s songwriter, Safran is a freelance writer contributing essays to both national and local outlets. (Including the glossy, short-lived Evanston Magazine, which gave him a cover story some years ago.) Many of his pieces are wry personal discoveries—for example, “the sorrows of jingle-writing,” to quote Kurt Loder’s observation—and exposés speaking truth to power. According to WGN News, Safran’s 2015 story in Newcity Magazine “rattled the local scene by exposing what life is really like playing around the city.” As Covid-19 hit Illinois, Newcity Magazine ran another Safran feature about discovering a digital archivist had preserved his out of print 1990s teen

punk band. It was one of the magazine's most popular music articles and inspired many local readers sheltering in place to unearth and preserve their own forgotten high school music.

Perhaps Safran's most laudable work was done anonymously. In 2015, Safran began a years-long project fearlessly investigating private residential treatment facilities for adolescents. (Often called "the troubled teen industry.") To keep this work separate from his music career, Safran published under a pseudonym. In 2018, his 16,000 word first-person investigation revealed that, for years, a state agency had quietly substantiated rampant child abuse allegations at one of the most influential private youth behavior modification programs (with connections to Evanston and other North Shore suburbs). This breakthrough investigation was hailed by human rights activists, investigative reporters, and countless survivors of institutional child abuse and their families. Even Paris Hilton praised Safran's findings and shared his work.

Continuing to shed light on the teen treatment industry, in 2019, Safran worked with the Education Desk reporter at NPR Illinois as professional source and interviewee for the station's celebrated 5-part investigative series, "Far From Home." After this project, Safran pseudonymously produced NBCUniversal's six-episode podcast, "The Lost Kids," based on his independent research and writings. Released last summer, Esquire Magazine put "The Lost Kids" at #4 on its list of 25 best true crime podcasts.

In December, Safran broke his anonymity in a short video narrated by a leading youth rights advocate. On Instagram alone, the video has been viewed over 600,000 times.

Whether it's dark, catchy songs "spike[d]...with humor" (The Chicago Reader) or articles covering communities near the margins and their ongoing struggles, David Safran's seminal, boundary-breaking art represents the best of Evanston. "Safran's music cannot be put into a box, and Safran has proved...that he can't either," WNUR wrote in June. "His persistence and resilience is what has kept him relevant all these years."

Thank you for considering David Safran for this award!

Emma Morris

7. Tim Rhoze

I would like to nominate Tim Rhoze for the Arts of Evanston award. For many years Tim has been ubiquitous in the Evanston arts scene, not only as the artistic director of the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre but for his many other artistic endeavors, one notably being instrumental in the formation of the Evanston Performing Arts Collective. We all know the wonderful plays that he has produced at Fleetwood- Jourdain bringing us quality black theater featuring the finest actors in the Chicago area, but I'd like to propose him for this award for his being the inspiration and guiding light to the senior community.

For over ten years he has worked with a group of seniors called The Primetime Players. They are not professional actors but love the theater and have been faithful supporters of Fleetwood-Jourdain. Tim has personally nurtured this group over the years. When the pandemic arrived he welcomed a group of like minded people from the seniors organization, Wise Up, North Shore Village Network. Tim has been responsible for the melding of these two groups into one cohesive organization with both black and white members forming a close knit bond. Because of his encouragement, talent and humor he has created an organization where all of the participants have come to love one another and share a wonderful common bond. I am a member of this group and prize it to the utmost.

We have had weekly meetings on Zoom with Tim in attendance, guiding and stimulating our common interest in theater and each other. In this past year in honor of Black History Month and Women's History Month he helped us write an original one hour one act play guiding us from inception to performance with his devoted interest, encouragement and inspiration. This play was produced and performed by all of us seniors and has been viewed by over 1,000 viewers on You Tube.

Our sense of accomplishment and our respect for Tim's artistic and technical expertise was shared by all of us seniors.

He spent countless hours helping and inspiring us and his selfless contributions are the reason that he deserves recognition and why I'm submitting his name for consideration.

Carol Liner

8. Chip Covington

We enthusiastically nominate Chip Covington and his Chicago Bluegrass Legends concert series for the Evanston Mayor's Award for the Arts. For over 20 years, Chicago Bluegrass Legends has been the Chicago area's only bluegrass concert series. On his renowned series, Chip has brought in nationally-recognized bands from all over the country - from established bluegrass groups to up-and coming-songwriters. Each year, from September through the winter months and into May, Evanston's American Legion Post 42 on Central Street came to life for one night every month as a concert space, typically sold-out with Evanstonians of all ages. Thousands of Evanston residents have now been the fortunate beneficiaries of this series being hosted in our city, a series which fills a unique musical niche in the landscape of Chicago's arts scene. Bluegrass is music based on community, where everyone is encouraged to participate and play the music together, and Chip - himself a native of Evanston and an ETHS graduate - took care to build a strong bluegrass community here on the North Shore. He and his family were always at the door to greet attendees personally, going to the trouble to get to know audience members by name, and always with a joke and a twinkle in his eye. He has gone out of his way to feature female bluegrass artists and to promote young artists, even of elementary school age. One casualty of this pandemic that our own family misses the most has been Chip's highly entertaining bluegrass series, which guaranteed world-class music, lots of good laughs, community, and fun through the long months of winter. It should also be noted that Chip himself is a musician of deep talents and successes. In the 1970's he joined Dix Bruce and the Shangai Rangers, played for Mr. Bill Monroe, and shared stages with the New Riders of the Purple Sage. In the 1980's, he co-founded the annual Ruotsinpyhtaa Bluegrass Festival in Finland, and he has produced and promoted domestic and international concerts with such blues & rock luminaries as Albert King, Buddy Guy & Jr. Wells, Otis Rush, John Lee Hooker, Professor Longhair, Koko Taylor, Magic Slim, Albert Collins, Otis Clay, Little Milton, Carl Perkins, Sleepy LaBeef, Lowell Fulson, Willie Dixon, Luther Allison, Burning Spear, and Gatemouth Brown. Chip has also performed in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Ireland, England, and as a special guest of the former Soviet Union. He has received sponsorships and grants from Chicago Artists Abroad, American Airlines, Finnair, and numerous companies abroad. Chip Covington and his Chicago Bluegrass Legends series have, for decades, enriched the artistic landscape of Evanston, and we can think of no artist more deserving of the Mayor's Awards for the Arts.

Allison Sloan & Taimur Sullivan

9. Hope Washinushi

I'd like to nominate Hope Washinushi for the mayor's award for the arts. She has been a steadfast contributor to the Young Evanston Artist festival and has gone above and beyond to save this program. She is a highly creative talented member of our art community.

Sarah Laing

10. Dr. Julia Davids

Dr. Julia Davids, Music Director of the Evanston-based North Shore Choral Society, is being nominated for the Mayor's Awards for the Arts in Evanston. She is Professor of Music at North Park University and is also Artistic Director of the Canadian Chamber Choir, which brings together singers from all provinces in her native land. She holds a doctoral degree in conducting from Northwestern University, as well as degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. Dr. Davids is an inspirational teacher as well as conductor, and her commitment to help build communities through the arts permeates her work. She has kept NSCS vibrant during a very challenging period while continuing both to engage Evanston-based artists and to give back to the greater Evanston Community, most notably to youngsters in the *Arts Reach Evanston* program. This program is the successful after-school program at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center in Evanston's Fifth Ward, initiated by NSCS under Dr. Davids' direction in 2017.

For Dr. Davids, music making is inherently community building. She purposefully programs collaborations with area-based performing organizations, thereby acting as a catalyst for artistic growth among all involved parties. Recent performing partners have included enidsmith dance (now with Dance Center Evanston), Evanston Children's Chorus and the Evanston Symphony Orchestra, among others. Dr. Davids has recently featured compositions by Evanston resident Dr. Stacy Garrop and Northwestern-trained Dr. Thomas W. Jefferson, giving exposure to these musicians while diversifying NSCS' repertoire. She carefully selects soloists, instrumentalists, and workshop speakers, hiring local seasoned professionals while offering paid exposure to Evanston emerging artists through NSCS' Donald Chen Young Artist Award competition. Dr. Davids negotiates for NSCS to perform in a variety of venues in and around Evanston, both to broaden experiences for performers and to reach a wide cross-section of the greater Evanston community.

A belief in the importance of inclusion in the arts and a related calling to mentor older students while educating younger ones guides Dr. Davids' leadership both on and off the podium. She is an inspiration to her students at North Park University and has steered many of them into leadership positions in Evanston with NSCS, most recently the Assistant Conductor, Tierra Whetstone. Dr. Davids administers the NSCS Choral Scholar program, during which local high school students participate in the life of NSCS. *Arts Reach Evanston*, the ongoing initiative begun by NSCS under Dr. Davids' direction, has introduced after-school arts programs to Fifth Ward school children at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center. These programs, which involve Evanston-based artists, have included sessions on improvisation, dance, and drumming, among others. During the pandemic, Dr. Davids scheduled opportunities for NSCS to collect and distribute school supplies and household goods for the students who were unable to meet in person for these arts programs.

Dr. Davids' dedication to community building through the arts, specifically to Evanston community building, is deserving of recognition. Her commitment to artistic excellence and her social conscience have most positively impacted both NSCS and Evanston. It is a joy for NSCS to nominate her.

Karen Rigotti, on behalf of NSCS

11. Creative Coworking

I'd like to nominate Creative Coworking, 922 Davis St., for a 2021 Mayor's Award for the Arts. This ten-year-old business provides workspaces for all kinds of professionals and also serves as an art gallery and business incubator. Owners Angela and Stelios Valavanis have developed an organization that caters to the needs of the members who use the space. At the same time, they generously and tirelessly champion local artists and artistic endeavors.

The walls at Creative Coworking are covered with an ever-changing selection of art by as many as 40 local artists. Unlike stuffy and intimidating art galleries, everything about this three-story space is designed to foster comfort, community, and creativity. The business holds regular Art & Wine Night events to showcase the art and artists as well as the workspace opportunities. Often, live music by local performers is a part of these gatherings. And if an artist sells an artwork, Creative Coworking takes no commission. It's an artist's dream come true!

Creative Coworking hosts a number of other creative events, including poetry readings, wine tastings, and workshops for entrepreneurs. The business is a perennial stop on tours of Evanston's art studios and galleries.

Please honor this admirable business, which has demonstrated new and creative ways to nurture and support the arts in Evanston.

Melanie Deal

12. Evanston Children's Choir

I have known Gary Geiger for a long time. Not only is he a truly excellent teacher, but I've watched him build the ECC, the Evanston Children's Choir, from seemingly nothing into a wonderful, inclusive organization that must leave its mark in the most favorable of ways, on the kids who are fortunate enough to participate, as they grow up and become adults. And I understand that no one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay.

Gary was my piano teacher almost 25 years ago. I have to say that I wasn't surprised when I watched last year's ECC Holiday concert. It was absolutely fantastic; a joy to watch even though I didn't know any of the kids. It was an example of incredible excellence. I can say from my own experience that Gary knows how to bring a student along so that she wants to strive for excellence and also has the tools to do so. He knows how to teach & guide. I still use some of the principles I learned from him, regularly, and not just for music. The Evanston Children's Choir is truly an asset for the children of our community. Giving the Mayor's Award to this organization would be a wonderful way to recognize the ECC's 20th anniversary.

Joan Rothenberg

13. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate Evanston's Children's Choir (ECC) for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. My child participated during COVID, and he looked forward to meeting with his group each week. I cannot thank them enough, as the music session helped my child deal with COVID and other personal issues he was facing during this time. I would also like to add that because of my limited funds, during COVID, ECC really supported my child in pursuing music, even with my financial constraints.

Vicky Velasquez

14. Evanston Children's Choir

I am writing to nominate and endorse the Evanston Children's Choir for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. This is their 20th season and an appropriate year to recognize their accomplishments. They are inclusive and have created ways to be accessible to all children. They are also able to create a range of music at a consistently high level of artistry.

They sustained themselves through the Covid quarantine and are now planning exciting performances with other groups for the upcoming season.

Lastly, programs for our children are an important part of any community's commitment to the future.

Shirley Adams

15. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate Evanston Children's Choir (ECC) for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. This Choir is like no others and I will forever be impressed by its inclusiveness, diversity, creativity and resilience. My family lives in Wilmette and when I first heard of this Evanston choir I could not believe that it never turns away children who are unable to pay participation fees. But I found this to indeed be true. I was happy to pay full tuition for my daughter to attend, because I knew that by doing so I was supporting not only a program known for its excellence, but also one that gives back to the community's children regardless of their ethnicity, color, socio-economic status or other factors. If there is one group most deserving of a Mayoral Award please look no further. You have found your most deserving candidate in ECC!

Anna Valavanis

16. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate the **Evanston Children's Choir** for this year's Mayor's Award for the arts. Here is why I feel this group is extremely suitable for this honor.

My recommendation comes from three hats I wear: one, as a longtime Evanstonian who values city institutions that I can be proud of; two, as a mother who saw my children thrive under ECC's leader, Gary Geiger; and three, as a neuroscientist who is a passionate supporter of music as a vector of brain health.

For two decades, the **Evanston Children's Choir** has been a source of pride for Evanston. It has boasted a very diverse membership—both in terms of race and ethnicity, but also in terms of age and ability. A key element that makes it an invaluable institution in Evanston is that it never turns anyone away due to financial ability. It operates on a sliding scale tuition basis, which is wholly on the honor system. And, apart from its inclusivity in membership, it often produces free-admission concerts—opening up the beauty of its choral music to all comers. Finally, diversity is further exemplified in its repertoire, which contains secular and sacred music from a variety of western and nonwestern traditions.

In its current 20th anniversary season, The **Evanston Children's Choir** has risen to the challenge of maintaining its operations in the face of the pandemic. It has proved its resilience and even thrived by holding online practices and producing virtual concerts! It also had the honor of having a performance broadcast on WFMT in 2020. A joint appearance at Chicago's Orchestra Hall is scheduled for next

Summer together with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago, the city's premier choral ensemble. Big things are happening with the ECC as it enters its 20th anniversary year!

On a personal level, I have to give a shout out to its director Gary Geiger. I first met Gary some 25 years ago when I was looking for a music teacher for my then grade-school age children. I called the Music department and NU looking for a teacher. They recommended Gary who was a recent graduate. As far as I know, my kids were his first students! All three of my children had him as a music teacher and all to this day speak warmly of the man who helped instill a love for music into them. Today, my three sons—all in their thirties and living busy lives around the globe—treasure every opportunity they have to play music when they are (too-seldom) together. When possible, I play with them too and I cannot express the level of joy this gives me...and Gary played a large role in this lifetime of cherished moments.

I am a professor and neuroscientist at Northwestern University and one of the research topics closest to my heart is the impact that making music has on the brain. Far from being only a hobby or a diversion, making music *strengthens the brain* through its reliance on attention and memorization, and the merging of the auditory, visual, and motor systems in the brain. [My research on this topic may be viewed on my [lab's website](#), specifically [here](#).] Music is a whole-brain workout and is one of the healthiest things that you can do for your brain and your health. Ask any schoolteacher. They will tell you that the brightest kids are the ones who are in school band or choir. By putting the power of music into the hands of so many Evanston children, the **Evanston Children's Choir** is setting up our kids to be healthy, bright, strong leaders of tomorrow. There is no more worthy goal than that!

I strongly urge you to select the **Evanston Children's Choir** as this year's recipient of the *Mayor's Award for the Arts*. No institution is more deserving. Evanston is fortunate indeed.

Nina Kraus, Ph.D.

17. Evanston Children's Choir

As a longtime Board Member of the Evanston's Children Choir I would appreciate it if your organization would bestow the Mayor's Award on the Evanston Children's Choir this year. I am happy to say that we showed our resilience during the pandemic—that we had no COVID-19 cases among our members all last season, and we produced some awesome virtual concerts to boot! We are celebrating our 20th anniversary season this year and have had many successes over the years; the ECC Concert Choir was broadcast as part of a performance on WFMT 98.7 FM on Earth Day of 2020, and we are scheduled to make our Orchestra Hall Debut this coming June together with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago. My 4th grade daughter is a 2nd year member and has been joining rehearsals through Zoom and loves it. Even when the performances are over she's singing the songs. She's very much looking forward to joining them on stage for the holiday show on December 18th. The diversity of songs and inclusion of anyone regardless of ability to pay is a big draw to the organization and is heartwarming.

Bridget Assing Marok

18. Evanston Children's Choir

I'm writing to nominate Evanston Children's Choir (evanstonchildrenschoir.org) for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. This year is the choir's 20th anniversary. It's the perfect time to celebrate this Evanston gem with the award.

Evanston Children's Choir is comprised of several choirs organized to provide opportunities for different ages and abilities. These choirs include anyone who is interested in singing. No one is turned away due to their inability to pay tuition. They are also inclusive in the wide variety of musical genres they draw from to rehearse and perform.

A few years ago, my husband, son and I participated in their Family Choir which is open to anyone. To be able to sing in practice and perform in concert as a family with other families is a memory I will always treasure.

Since I became familiar with the choir, it has adapted and changed based on the need expressed in the community. There have been choirs in schools, a story choir and the family choir to name a few.

It also adapted during the pandemic with virtual rehearsals and an inspirational concert.

The choir has had the honor of collaborating with a variety of musical groups from Barry Manilow to the Chicago Philharmonic. And this year they will debut at Orchestra Hall with the Apollo's Chorus of Chicago.

Evanston Children's Choir is an asset to the Evanston community. It's inclusiveness and dedication to spreading the joy of music through song makes it the perfect choice for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Meyer

19. Evanston Children's Choir

I write to nominate a phenomenal organization and its leader for the Mayor's Award. My daughters have been involved with Evanston Children's Choir since we moved to Evanston 3 years ago. ECC - led by Gary Geiger - puts children first and exposes them to a world of diverse music and song. At its simplest: Gary inspires kids to sing their hearts out. Before the pandemic, the end of season performances were truly spectacular. Not just seeing the culmination of the kids' hard work - but seeing Gary's energy and his love for the kids and the music. When the pandemic hit, I braced myself to tell my daughters that choir was going to put on hold. But Gary and his brilliant ECC adapted and thoroughly engaged the kids by Zoom. To be clear — my kids were DONE with anything Zoom within months of remote school, remote camp, remote grandma, remote friends... done that is except they still LOVED remote ECC because Gary made it fun, safe and welcoming. When I heard ECC's first live stream remote song, sung by kids from our community, I was in tears. ECC is a magical organization, led by an inspirational and upbeat choir director who embraces the diversity of music and our community. I can think of no better recipient for the Mayor's award this year!

Donna Welch (Evanston mom of Louisa (11) and Jules (14))

20. Evanston Children's Choir

We would like to nominate Evanston Children's Choir for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. Our children ages 8 and 11 both sing with their Concert Choir.

ECC has been a delight to participate in. The directors Gary Geiger and Sarah Bartolome are inspiring and encouraging. They have gone above and beyond in supporting our kids. This year Gary passed along an audition notice for the Lyric Opera for a role suitable for our son Oscar. Sarah took time out of her summer to help Oscar prepare an audition, and he was delighted to get a callback! He put his all

into the process, and was really proud of himself.

Singing with ECC has been a great confidence builder, and our kids have really matured as singers with the group. We are looking very forward to the ECC Concert Choir's special performance at Orchestra Hall in 2022! This performance with the Apollo Chorus will be a huge deal for the kids, and shows the fruition of ECC's relationship building in the musical community.

Both of our kids have also benefitted from the ECC financial aid policy, in which no singer is turned away for lack of funds. Gary is an inventive and enthusiastic fundraiser. Everyone at ECC has been welcoming, personable and professional.

Special mention should be made of the choir's successful adaptations during COVID. Gary and Sarah ran multiple choirs virtually during 2020, culminating in an engineered recording of all the singers individual recordings combined into a group performance. This year, they have skillfully managed in-person rehearsals safely, without incident of transmission, balancing the safety logistics of mixed-age participants.

This is the choir's 20th anniversary, and we would love to see them recognized in this special year with this award.

Steve Rogne and Amber Matthews

21. Evanston Children's Choir

I wholeheartedly nominate the Evanston Children's Choir for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. My child engaged with this group and I volunteered to support the children and Gary Geiger at some events. To me, this group epitomizes what Evanston stands for: unity in diversity. Children from different cultures, races, and backgrounds are supported in making beautiful music together. Under Gary's encouraging and very skillful leadership, they perform for the public in many venues, such as grocery stores, where many walks of Evanstonians visit. The ECC deserves this award so much.

Elizabeth Meadows

30-year resident of Evanston and faculty member in elementary education at Roosevelt University

22. Evanston Children's Choir

The Choir is inclusive, both as to membership and repertoire; it is accessible, never turning anyone away because of money. The Choir has been resilient as well as careful during the pandemic—having had no COVID-19 cases among its members all last season. The Choir's free, virtual concerts have given our community a delightful diversion.

Some of the Choir's recent successes include an ECC Concert Choir broadcast as part of a performance on WFMT 98.7 FM on Earth Day, 2020. Furthermore, the Choir made its Orchestra Hall Debut in June with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago.

This year the Choir celebrates its 20th anniversary season. I strongly believe that this record merits the Evanston Children's Choir to be selected as the winner of the Mayor's Award for the Arts, 2021.

Alan Gratch

23. Evanston Children's Choir

Our singer was a part of the Evanston Children's Choir for six years. She's a freshman this year at ETHS and if it weren't for schedule conflicts she'd still be in ECC. She was given the gift of song. Before she began with ECC, she was a quiet child, now she sings her way through the day. I can hear her singing in the other room now. She developed a strong speaking voice as well. Her Humanities History teacher said on Wednesday that a presentation she gave to the class exuded confidence and professionalism. Performing has benefits beyond recitals.

Fund raisers and donations allow the choir to accommodate children who want to sing but don't have tuition. The student population is diverse, and so is the repertoire. Every child and their family is represented in their music. This also gave our student a broader understanding of what other cultures celebrate in song and belief.

During the worst of the pandemic, ECC was able to continue to practice and to present performances via Zoom. The ECC Concert Choir was featured on WFMT last year as well. They will perform with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago at Orchestra Hall this coming June..

How an organization operates is highly important to me, not just their talents as artists but also how they present themselves as people. Gary Geiger, the Director of ECC, treats everyone with respect. He coaxes music out of those children who may begin with the will but not the talent. Every child feels as though they have a gift when he works with them. His staff exhibits the same caring ways. Our girl was not a born singer. She was given the confidence to try and to succeed by ECC. She is in the Fine Arts track in High School. Her background with ECC is a big plus.

ECC is celebrating its 20th year bringing joy and learning to Evanston choir members. We are truly blessed to have them in our City. I hope you will consider gifting them with the Mayor's Award. They richly deserve it. Thank you.

Sara Roemer Fieberg

24. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate Evanston Children's choir for the award. As an African American mother of 5 children I was a bit worried when my daughter wanted to join the choir. It is expensive and I wasn't sure I could afford it but so didn't want her to be disappointed so I reached out to Gary the director.

He was supportive, kind and welcomed my daughter into the choir. They provided a scholarship and asked me to pay whatever amount I can manage. I am truly grateful for my child to have the opportunity to do what she loves.

Geneva Solomon

25. Evanston Children's Choir

I am writing to nominate the Evanston Children's Choir (ECC) for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. I enrolled my daughter Evelyn in the ECC as a first grader and have had her singing with the ECC ever since (she's now a 5th grader). She started singing in the Youth Chorale; a group of Evanston kids of any age who just want to sing. From first to third grade I sat in the back of practice every week. There were students who sing off tune and just can't catch the beat. The beautiful thing is it never mattered. Through loving and patient instruction, they figure it out. For two years I observed a choir director who

never made anyone feel unwelcome or off tune or out of place. The Evanston Children's Choir is a choir for everyone.

As a single mom my income ebbs and flows. I haven't always been able to afford the ECC tuition but thankfully Evelyn has always been welcome in the choir (with the added bonus that I've never been made to feel an inconvenience or embarrassed that I've had to ask for financial assistance). I pay what I can for my daughter and she is accepted as a full member, no caveats. Evelyn now sings with the Concert Choir and since Covid hit in March 2020, practises have remained weekly but are online (she's 10 years old and unvaccinated). The enthusiasm that ECC brings to our home, even over zoom, is a breath of fresh air. "Mr. Gary" as everyone calls the director, Gary Giger, is the most enthusiastic and patient teacher I've been privileged to watch. The gift of consistency he provided Evanston's young singers in a turbulent 2020-21 season is something I admire very much in the organization. The ECC made it work in a beautiful way.

Although, "making it work" doesn't do their 2020-21 season justice. ECC helped Evanston's children thrive. ECC gave us music in a time of solitude. ECC made kids sing at a time when there was not much to smile about. The kids sang to their screens and through the magic of technology and sound engineering, they were still able to have "concerts" and share their hard work with friends and family. The ECC gave us performances. When the final product was released, the smile on my daughter's face said it all; they just did a hard thing and it turned out beautifully.

The Evanston Children's Choir is an organization for everyone in the community. With beginner choirs, a Concert Choir, and a Family Choir, there's a spot for everyone. They practise what they preach too, the music they sing is inclusive and celebratory of all cultures and languages. As the Evanston Children's Choir celebrates its 20th year in 2021, I can't think of a better way to celebrate this community treasure than to award them with the high honor of winning the Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Kristen Wood

26. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate the Evanston Children's Choir ("ECC") for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. ECC's inclusiveness, in terms of repertoire and membership, is unparalleled, and ECC has never turned anyone away because of lack of funds. These aren't new goals motivated by the recent wave of social justice; this is simply how ECC's executive director, Gary Geiger, has always run the ECC because he knows it is the right thing to do and the choir is stronger and richer for it.

Although all organizations of Evanston have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, as you might expect, COVID has taken a significant toll on ECC as an organization of children singers. Yet amazingly, the pandemic also revealed the organization's mighty resilience. There were no COVID-19 cases among ECC's members all last season, and ECC also managed to produce some incredible virtual concerts at the same time. For many of the kids, working on music was the one thing they could do to give them some sense of normalcy and connection, and it showed in their heartfelt performances.

ECC, which is now in its 20th year, has also received some recent accolades. For instance, ECC Concert Choir was broadcast as part of a performance on WFMT 98.7 FM on Earth Day of 2020, it regularly participates in the annual holiday concert at the high school along with other community organizations, and ECC has been invited to make its Orchestra Hall debut together with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago in June 2022.

On a personal note, my daughter was in ECC's concert choir for a number of years, and I have been on the board for over five years. In that capacity, I work closely with Gary, and I am truly humbled by his commitment to ECC and his fearless drive to constantly make ECC stronger and better. After every performance, Gary will announce to its members that the choir sounds better than it has ever sounded before, which he says each time with all sincerity. Whether it is accurate or not doesn't matter; Gary's excitement is infectious, and the pride and confidence he instills in the children of ECC— along with the love of music from around the world and commitment to excellence —helps positively shape the future generations of Evanston's youth.

Evanston is lucky to have the ECC and Gary's leadership, and I hope you will consider honoring this worthy institution this year.

Colby Anne Kingsbury

27. Evanston Children's Choir

I am writing to nominate the Evanston Children's Choir, led by Gary Geiger for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. My son began participating in ECC's youth choir in 2015 and over the years we have been so grateful for him to have a space to grow as a person and a musician. Gary has always created an inclusive atmosphere for any child that wanted to participate using his audition process to accept all interested children and place them in a group that would support them. No matter whether it was the youngest singers or the participants of the more experienced concert choir, Gary provided the same level of attention and expectations to the singers—making sure to select a roster of music that would represent a range of cultures, religions and traditions so the children could see themselves in the music they were singing. One of my fondest memories of the choir was at an end of year party where the kids spontaneously started sharing about how for some of them they had started only because their parents signed them up, but had grown to see the choir as a part of their identity, a place where they felt safe and understood not just by the director, but by the collection of singers who formed a community of belonging.

Since the start of the pandemic, Gary's commitment has been to continue no matter what the changing circumstance were to provide the kids with a dependable structure, social connection and expression through music. Last year all the practices and concerts were virtual, but Gary made sure that things stayed the same as much as possible.

I can't say enough about the positive impact this organization has had on my son's musical ability, his sense of self and his emotional well being. I hope you seriously consider this group for this award.

Zoë Miller-Lee

28. Evanston Children's Choir

I would like to nominate the wonderful **Evanston Children's Choir** for a Mayor's Award for the Arts. My daughter has been a member of the choir for the past seven years, and she continues to be involved as an intern because she recognizes the excellence of the group, as well as the great mentoring that Gary Geiger and company provide for children who join the choir. This choir is something that the entire community can take pride in. They have performed with the Evanston Symphony, with the North Shore Community Choir, with the Northwestern Symphony and Chorus, as well as other groups. They have participated in the Evanston Tree Lighting for many years, and they have also been an integral part of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center. Their winter and spring concerts provide free entertainment for the public, and the quality of their work is astonishing.

What is most valuable about the Evanston Children's Choir is the focus on each child's development as a singer and member of an ensemble, as well as the commitment to diversity and the high standards of performance that the ensemble maintains year after year--including during the pandemic. I hope that you will agree that the Evanston Children's Choir richly deserves a Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Tim Duggan

29. Evanston Children's Choir

To whom it may concern: my husband Alan also sent in his reasons why Gary Geiger's Evanston Children's Choir should receive the Mayor's Award for the Arts. In that submission, Alan mentioned all the accomplishments of Gary's Choir, what it has done, how well it has been received.....everywhere.

But I'd like to share information about the outstanding qualities of Gary Geiger as a person. He works so beautifully, so gently with both children and adults, is so gentle in his approach, always reflects pleasure when meeting and/or re-meeting someone, giving that individual a feeling of importance. What a quality to offer children, many of whom are struggling with their own struggles of "who am I"?

Gary is also a formidable teacher, both with groups and on a one-to-one basis. He's encouraging, genuinely pleased with the student's or group's learning process and has a intuitive sense of finding balance among a variety of young people, demonstrating by his example of acceptance of differences. At the same time, he has standards that he imparts on his students, with an expectation (within their reach) of what constitutes acceptable behavior in his Children's Choir.

So, in addition to my husband, Alan's comments, please include mine: Gary's excellence as a talented, caring individual, one who is committed to teaching music to young people...and their parents....as part of their growing up experience, in the best of all possible ways.

Sallie Gratch

30. Evanston Children's Choir

In December of 2018, my then 5 year old son Charlie and I went to the annual ECC concert at Alice Millar Chapel. Charlie was captivated, standing up leaning against the pew, in awe of the young kids performing in front of him. He asked in that moment if he could do what those kids were doing, if he could join the choir.

As soon as we could, Charlie signed up for the Story choir which deepened his love for singing and grew his confidence in all parts of his life. Gary's a tremendous teacher and makes every kid feel their contribution matters. We continued our participation throughout the pandemic and applaud the work of the ECC in adapting their approach while continuing to deliver an extraordinary experience. The ECC, as expected, has had a very difficult 18 months but you would never know that from what my/our kids experience.

On Gary's invitation, Charlie auditioned this summer for the concert choir and was selected to join. Charlie is 8, he has a lot of interests, a lot of activities and happily bounces into choir practice two teams a week. He is so proud to be part of this group. He feels encouraged and supported to stretch his skills, and I can see him growing. I have had zero hesitations in sending him to practice in person given the ongoing attention to his health and safety.

In a few months, masks on, Charlie will be in his ECC uniform performing at Alice Millar Chapel. I and the rest of his family will be beaming with pride and excitement.

I'm grateful for Gary and the ECC and join many others in celebrating their 20th anniversary. I strongly recommend them for this year's Mayoral Artist's award.

Betsy and Charlie Ziegler

31. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I am writing to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. I have played with the ESO for about 10 years now, and it has added much joy to my life and to the lives of many friends in the community. The orchestra has been going strong for 75 years now, and under the baton of Maestro Eckerling the quality of the group has increased every year. In addition, the ESO has been active for the past 2 decades in music education in Evanston, with players like myself volunteering to go into the schools and introduce young children to string instruments and to foster interest in music in general. In addition, our holiday concert every year includes several community arts groups and is always a wonderful and diverse celebration. Lastly, we recently played a free pops concert outdoors at Gillson Park for a packed and very enthusiastic audience. They were no more enthusiastic than we were to be playing together again at last after 18 months of the pandemic! I hope you'll consider the ESO for one of the awards this year.

Jeanine Casler, PhD

32. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I would like to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for the Mayor's Award for the Arts.

I have been a member of the Orchestra for over 40 years and have watched it grow from an amateur orchestra to the nearly professional level it occupies now. It has been a continuous source of inspiration and fun for me, and my life would have been seriously lacking without it. It is one of Evanston's jewels and an organization that all Evanston residents can be proud of. In addition, of course, there are the other services it provides, including the Holiday Concert and music education classes for District 65's Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

J.F.M. Russell

33. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I would like to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra to be honored by the city of Evanston with the Mayor's Award for the Arts. I have been a member of the Second Violin section of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra since shortly after moving to Evanston, almost 20 years ago. It is unique as a true community orchestra made of of a diverse group of volunteers who come together to share the joy of making music together. Over the years we have expanded community outreach to include participation in a head start program. Together with local dance students, adult and children's choruses and more recently, a Gospel group, the ESO presents an annual holiday program that is truly inclusive and entertaining for the entire community.

The orchestra has greatly improved in quality over the years I have participated, and continues to rise to new challenges at each performance.

After 70 weeks off due to Covid, we came together again for a free outdoor concert over the summer,

and have begun rehearsals for another full season.

As we are celebrating a delayed anniversary for the orchestra this year, it would be a perfect time to recognize this institution that has brought music, education, and joy to the community for the past 75 years.

Shelley Powell

34. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

My name is Suzanne Nelson, longtime Evanston resident, music lover, and Board member of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra. I'm writing to nominate ESO — an organization with a 75-year history of cultural and community enrichment in Evanston — for the Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Not only is ESO a superb volunteer orchestra, it works actively to engage the entire Evanston community in music and to promote music appreciation and literacy. ESO's reach extends widely throughout Evanston to a host of its citizenry. As someone involved with ESO for the last several years, I can attest to how actively and creatively ESO has worked to fulfill its mission over decades of service to the arts!

A few examples (in addition to our well-regarded subscription concerts):

We sponsor an annual (widely attended) holiday concert, collaborating with local dance, chorale and church-based choirs.

We have orchestrated free children's concerts, giving middle school players the chance to perform alongside ESO musicians.

We sponsor local musical-Head Start/early-Head Start programs.

Just a few weeks ago, ESO played a free-to-all outdoor concert at the Wallace Bowl to kick off our return to live music performances after an 18 month hiatus.

Prior to all subscription concerts, ESO hosts a no-cost Musical Insights program at the Mather in downtown Evanston, where audience members can hear music excerpts of the upcoming concert coupled with remarks from our ESO music director and performing soloists.

As someone who appreciates music but who is not, myself, a musician, I am delighted to be a part of ESO and to nominate it for this local award. This organization has been an integral part of Evanston for 75 years. It is highly respected for the wide span of activities it undertakes, and it is organizationally well-run. Please give ESO your utmost consideration!

Suzanne Nelson

35. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for a Mayor's Award for the Arts. The ESO has been making significant, irreplaceable contributions to performing arts in Evanston for 75 years. Evanston residents support ESO so much.

ESO typically draws 1000+ patrons to its concerts.

Todd Wiener

36. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I'd like to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra (ESO) for the 2021 Mayor's Award for the Arts.

The ESO performs several concerts each year (including the Holiday Concert which involves other arts groups in Evanston), to provide diverse and enjoyable music for our community. Other programs from the ESO include Music in Your World that provides free music classes to underserved pre-schoolers; Musical Insights, a concert preview performance/Q&A hosted in senior communities; and KidNotes and HighNotes, program notes written especially for kids and seniors, respectively.

As the ESO celebrates its 75th anniversary, I'm proud to be both a musician and Board member of this outstanding organization.

Andrea Musloff

37. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I would like to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra (ESO) for this year's Mayor's Award for the Arts. I am an Evanston resident who began playing in the orchestra in the 2018-2019 season and became a member of the Board of the ESO in summer 2020.

After a 20-year hiatus from playing in orchestras (work and family got in the way), the ESO offered me the opportunity to reconnect with my love of music in a community that shares that passion. It offers this enrichment to dozens of Evanstonians who play in the orchestra and to hundreds who attend our concerts. The music is high-quality and the orchestra clearly emphasizes keeping it accessible. ESO offers free concert admission to all children ages 12 and under and admission for only \$5 for all students. ESO embraces all ages, including children and senior citizens, even providing special program notes for each group, "KidNotes" and "HighNotes" respectively. These publications are engaging and connect everyone with the beauty and knowledge of music and musicians. ESO has an amazing history, forming after WWII when veterans flooded Northwestern, pushing out community members from their orchestra. It was founded with a mission to preserve this opportunity for community musicians to play. We are now celebrating our 75th year and, even during the pandemic, we found ways to keep music alive. We published videos, continued sending HighNotes to places of senior living, and offered a free outdoor concert in August which was very well received and a much-needed outlet for our longtime subscribers and for community members of all ages who came out to hear us for the first time.

I could go on telling about many other wonderful things the ESO does, like hold an annual Holiday concert at Evanston Township High School, offer classes to preschool children, and provide opportunities for D65 middle school students to play alongside us.

I'm happy to talk more about the merits of the orchestra, and urge you to award ESO the honor of the Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Laura Cinat

38. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I'd like to nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for this year's Mayor's Award for the Arts. I have seen and heard ESO play on many occasions. Everyone in Evanston can and should be proud of

the caliber of its music, and how well it reflects on our city. We can all take pride that Evanston has been able to support a local, volunteer orchestra of such high caliber for so many years.

It's a testament to the importance of the arts here.

It's clear ESO contributes – beyond the concerts -- to promoting the culture of Evanston arts' organizations, and to helping everyone here, from small children to senior citizens, learn more about music.

The ESO helps Evanston in so many ways. It is highly deserving of this recognition and I'm delighted to nominate it.

Jim Nelson

39. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

I nominate the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. The ESO does much more than perform great concerts, it gives amateur musicians the opportunity to play the music they love for the benefit of their community. ESO brings music to low-income preschoolers and their families in Head Start through Music In Your World; to seniors who can't attend our concerts with pre-concert recitals at a downtown senior community; and to middle school string players through our Young Persons' Concert where they perform side-by-side with ESO musicians. During the COVID-19 shutdown the ESO used the power of music in new ways to lift the human spirit, and engage and enrich our community. ESO developed a music-based activity book of games and puzzles for to connect with seniors who were isolated at home, put our music education program for preschoolers and their families on Zoom, and performed a free outdoor summer concert.

This is a special year, the ESO's 75th anniversary - the Mayor's Award for the Arts would be a fitting recognition of the many ways it enriches our community by bringing people together through a shared love of music.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Flax

40. Evanston Symphony Orchestra

In the 25+ years since I joined the board of the Evanston Symphony Orchestra, I have seen the organization grow from one focused on a certain type of classical music enthusiast to an orchestra determined to make classical music accessible to all segments of Evanston and our neighboring communities. While the programming and the quality of the music speak for themselves, I would like to highlight three ESO community outreach programs that I believe set the ESO apart from other community orchestras: *KidNotes*, Music in Your World, and *HighNotes*.

In the late 1990s, the ESO began producing *KidNotes*, program notes for young people, to help persuade parents to bring their children to concerts. *KidNotes* has evolved from eight pages in 1997 to a 20-page booklet with articles about the music, composers and soloists in the concert plus some puzzles and jokes to address the "fidget factor" that can manifest itself in a concert. While written at a middle school level, it's enjoyed by many adults as well, particularly those who know little about classical music. We usually print about 100 copies per concert had have very few left at the end of the performances.

Sixteen years ago we introduced “Music in your World,” a program to introduce music to children in Head Start. An early childhood education specialist and members of the Evanston Symphony introduced pre-school children to “things you can blow, things you can shake, things you can strike and things you can pluck” in several classes per month. Several years ago, we expanded our outreach to children by taking Music in Your World to Early Head Start for infants, toddlers and their families. Over 660 classes later, these two delightful programs are still in place and are loved by both children and parents.

When the pandemic struck, Evanston’s Department of Senior Services began a monthly mailing of what they called “Brain Break” materials, packets of information and puzzles to those seniors who, already isolated by their circumstances, would become even more so under pandemic conditions. The Evanston Symphony contributed to this monthly effort by producing *HighNotes*, a 20-page booklet for seniors on music and related topics, based somewhat on the *KidNotes* model. Worth special mention is a section called “Bygones,” which has two purposes: (1) to jog memories of those in memory care and (2) to spark conversation between seniors and younger folks who might not know what carbon paper or a roller skate key is. When the City’s funding for the “Brain Break” project ran out this past March, the Evanston Symphony took over production of the Brain Break materials as well as the *HighNotes* booklet. The project reaches some 500 seniors so far and has been enthusiastically received.

The Evanston Symphony Orchestra is proud have been a *community* orchestra for the past 75 years and is, in this platinum anniversary year, a deserving winner of the Mayor’s Award for the Arts.

Kelly Brest van Kempen

41. Identity Performing Arts

Identity Performing Arts (known as Identity) has been providing **free** dance programs to the Evanston community since 2016. Partnering with Family Focus Evanston, Identity runs a full after school program in Fall, Spring and Summer throughout each year. I have witnessed how carefully and caringly this small, not for profit outreach organization prepares such a varied dance curriculum for kids who otherwise would have no opportunity at all to understand and be part of dance. These after school classes are taught by Identity faculty who are active in their dance careers in African, hip hop, jazz, modern and ballet dance. Identity truly engages with the students and provides consistent professional dance as a free weekly experience, in a safe, expressive space, focusing on empowerment dance education. Three annual recitals are open to the public performances that give these student dancers the opportunity to showcase all that they have learned and prove to themselves and others that hard work pays off. Interestingly, they always have a full house in the Family Focus Auditorium for these performances. These students, middle school novice dancers, have blown me away with their expressive, confident stage presence, and zeal to be part of something larger than themselves through this dance program.

This organization has been the recipient of Evanston community funds since 2016. In 2018, Identity was invited to present a dance with students from Family Focus Evanston. The young dancers performed in the Block Museum for Bright Night, expressing their confidence despite challenging backgrounds and opportunity. The performance pieces were and still are choreographed by Ginny Ching-Yin Lo, the founder and artistic director of Identity, and head teacher of the Family Focus Evanston free dance program. Her mission and vision is to always strive to create dance to affirm everyone’s identity and plant the seed for future young leaders by working on focus and concentration

towards young dancers' dreams without compromising the quality of the dance works. It all showed in this performance with a standing ovation at the Bright Night event in October, 2018.

During the pandemic, Identity faced the difficult decision to continue the dance program with Family Focus Evanston while all the students were at home taking virtual school classes. During this challenging time and without funding support due to COVID, Identity went virtual in teaching. Ginny learned how to teach dance in a small space as most of the students have limited space in their family homes to move (they dance in the kitchen, the closet and their hallways!) Teaching dance in a limited space and keeping the students engaged and bringing fun and joy during the pandemic required dedication and persistence to ensure the program's success. Identity's partnership with Family Focus Evanston deepened as Ginny offered to help Family Focus record dance recitals on zoom during COVID, knowing they were also understaffed. She took care of all the online technical support and editing of the video link and totally melded into this Family Focus family beyond just partnership.

During 2021, Identity started to recruit Family Focus student dancer alumni as student teachers, encouraging the them to give back to their community. A high school sophomore was hired this summer teaching hip hop and now continues to teach in fall. With all this, Identity merits this award, in continuing its vision, despite all, week after week, season after season, year after year and throughout the pandemic, significantly benefitting so many young students, who have gained confidence, focus, grace and self expression through this free dance program.

Sharon Meyers

42. Art Encounter/EMAP

I nominate Art Encounter, for their mural program (Evanston Mural Arts Program). Their work beautifies our city and their choice of artists maintains the diversity of our wonderfully diverse Evanston.

One can see their work from South Blvd Street to Central Street. The themes of their murals reflect city life, nature, good design with messages of personal power, love and community.

Art Encounter's program EMAP maintains a strong presence in our community and brings beauty to public spaces. The organization's passion for art is reflected in the work they share.

Diana Anton

43. Art Encounter

I would like to nominate Art Encounter for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. This organization led by Joanna Pinsky and Lea Pinsky makes the visual arts accessible to Evanston artists and it showcases the artists' work to all Evanston residents. It sponsors the large murals on the walls under the "el" overpasses and elsewhere that contribute to the beauty of Evanston's urban landscape. It holds exhibitions of local artists in the 900 Gallery on Dempster and organizes tours of places with art in Chicago and beyond. They deserve all the recognition that Evanston can give.

Sylvie Romanowski

44. 2nd Act Players

Seldom has an arts organization done more to give back to its community and those around it, while withstanding its own major losses, than did the Evanston 2nd Act Players in the past year. Shutdown in

March 2020 because of Covid, the 2nd Act Players' first thoughts turned to helping those who had supported it in its nine years of existence. So it:

- Immediately offered to refund all the funds its sponsors had committed to it for the 2020 season, aware that as small businesses themselves, those sponsors faced enormous financial pressures because of Covid.
- Further offered to help sponsors by publicizing on the 2nd Act Players website and in its newsletters which sponsors remained open during the darkest days of the pandemic.
- Joined with other Chicago theaters in selling special T-shirts, proceeds of which went to a special relief fund for out-of-work actors created by the Chicago League of Theatres.
- Produced and distributed facemasks to actors it had worked with when masks were still in short supply.
- Joined with other Evanston arts organizations to create EPAC, a group designed to promote the performing arts in Evanston. The 2nd Act Players mounted one of EPAC's first online performance installations.

All of this was undertaken even as the 2nd Act Players was being told by the Illinois Arts Council and others that it was too small to qualify for any relief funds of its own, despite the financial losses shutting down caused it. Over its lifespan, the 2nd Act Players has functioned without any government, foundation or arts grants of any kind, relying on its sponsors, individual donors and ticket buyers for all its support.

As it was helping others in 2020, the 2nd Act Players felt compelled to join the national discussion about social and racial justice. It decided to invest its meager reserve funds in producing online shows about such issues during the pandemic and turned its stage over to Black playwrights and actors to tell their stories. It further committed to donating 80% of proceeds from those shows to charities of the authors' choice.

So in July 2020 it streamed two plays by Chicago Black Author Andre Richardson Hogan II, one dealing with a black man beaten by the police, the other about a black Chicago firefighter killed by Covid. Proceeds from that production were donated to the NAACP League Defense Fund. In July 2021, it streamed "Black Flag" by nationally recognized Black Playwright Idris Goodwin. Proceeds from that were donated to the National Museum for Peace and Justice.

As it strove to maintain focus on important social issues, the 2nd Act Players also worked extremely hard to maintain its mission of presenting new stage talent. In late 2020, it streamed a series of new plays under the banner of "60 is the New 40." The stories looked at how people were redefining their golden years. Actors were paid and also supplied with green screens, a must-have for actors in today's world of online auditions.

In spring 2021, the Players presented "Pandemic Stories," seven 10-minute plays by emerging authors about life during and after the Pandemic. Actors in these were supplied with lighting and green screens to keep for their own use, in addition to their performance stipends, all at a time when actors were desperate for work because of Covid.

The Players had hoped to return to live performances in late 2021, but their church/landlord has decided not to reopen its theater space until a major upgrade of its HVAC system can be completed. That means the 2nd Act Players are currently homeless. But they take immense pride in knowing that their small group, with only a 4-member board of directors, accomplished so much for others in the darkest of the Pandemic and beyond.

To read more about all the 2nd Act Players' efforts, go to <http://evanston2ndactplayers.com>

John N. Frank

45. Hope for Artists Arts Community

My name is Linda Sylvester and I'm a resident of Evanston, Illinois since 1989. I'm nominating 'Hope for Artists Arts Community' for the annual Mayor's Award for the Arts. This community was founded by me in 2010 and has continued and grown with a team of leaders with me. We are located in Evanston and our mission statement is, "we seek to create and be one who encourages justice, peace, and change."

Our arts community believes that the artist and the arts can make a difference in Evanston and in the world to bring change and healing within ourselves and to others around us. We have regularly served over the years at the Evanston Vineyard Church's Food Pantry and Care Center practically and with our creative gifts to support, get to know, and help our neighbors and patrons. We also gave out arts and craft bags to families with kids throughout the pandemic at the Care Center and we will continue.

In addition, we have 'Arts and Social Justice Nights' each season with a different focus of injustice for the night; to advocate, educate, and support those in our community and beyond.

Our arts community also regularly supports and advertises what other artists and arts organizations are doing in the Evanston area and beyond.

We meet regularly each month and include artists and musicians of diverse kinds and art appreciators from the Evanston community and beyond. We get to know each other, share our story and artistic gifts, encourage, support, and pray for each other; and we as artists love to use our creative gifts to serve those in our community at large. We also have regular art exhibitions, do murals in the community, and we help those who are experiencing injustices and who are in need.

We have seen many people experience healing, transformation, and growth over the years personally and creatively. Myself included. We also love to point to the beauty around us through our artwork and through being together as a community.

All are welcome to join our arts community meetings, events, and service that we are involved in. Through the arts and artists, healing and change are possible in greater ways and restorative justice. Our 'Hope for Artists Arts Community' loves to advocate and support the Evanston Community in these ways and we will continue. This is why I believe the 'Hope for Artists Arts Community' is deserving of the Annual Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Linda Sylvester

46. Evanston Performing Arts Collaborative

Evanston Performing Arts Collaborative (EPAC) is a new collective of Evanston-based performing arts organizations who joined forces in the summer of 2020 to create a consortium with the mission of "Celebrating Life, Community and the Arts." Traditionally performing arts organizations may think of themselves as competing for the same audiences. EPAC aims to turn competition into collaboration and partisanship into partnership. They have already produced a number of successful collaborative productions and they consistently support and promote each other's performances.

Tim Rhoze, Artistic Director of Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, was one of the driving forces that brought EPAC together. One of Rhoze's main goals has been to ensure that EPAC is an organization that serves all of Evanston, especially audience members who have typically been overlooked. And that means black, brown, and other underserved groups. Right from the start, EPAC reached out to such audiences. For instance, in December 2020 EPAC released their performances for free through Facebook and YouTube, featuring sign language interpretation in each performance and highlighting Black artists, storytellers and performers.

Now 15 organizations, including Evanston Dance Ensemble, Evanston Symphony Orchestra, Theo Ubique, The Musical Offering, Chicago Ballet Arts, Music Institute of Chicago, Piven Theater, Evanston Children's Choir, 2nd Act Players and the Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, unite to form EPAC. The larger organizations support the smaller ones. Traditionally white led organizations work to expand their reach through collaborations with Black and brown led organizations.

I feel that the full force of EPAC has yet to make its mark on Evanston but will do over the next few years, and they should be encouraged for making a bold start. Tim Rhoze hopes that working with EPAC will allow collaborators to center local performing arts in the community at a time when we all need the joy of live performance to lift us out of the tough times that our residents, and our arts community have gone through during the pandemic.

I hope you will consider this nomination to celebrate and encourage this valuable and important new collaboration.

Penelope Sachs

47. Evanston Dance Ensemble

The Evanston Dance Ensemble (EDE) Board of Directors is nominating EDE for the 2021 Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Evanston Dance Ensemble was founded in 1997 by Béa Rashid and for the past 25 years has been making significant contributions to the arts in Evanston by bringing dance into the lives of young dancers and to audiences across the city through performances and partnerships with Evanston civic and arts organizations. Béa was inspired to start EDE to bring high quality dance performances to the community with a company of the most talented dancers from her school, Dance Center Evanston (DCE). EDE's first public performance was at Evanston's Haven Middle School.

Each season, EDE presents several performances at both Studio 5 and at the Josephine Louis Theater. These include works featuring original choreography by top professionals such as Randy Duncan, Monique Haley, Ron De Jesus, and Stephanie Martinez and also pieces choreographed by company dancers through the Young Choreographers Project, which empowers EDE members to create dance with the mentorship of professional choreographers. Community favorites include The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe and Space Odyssey, both featuring music composed by Steve Rashid. Over the past 25 years, EDE has held 160 of its own performances, while also performing across Evanston at venues and events such as the Farmers' Market, the Evanston Arts Festival, and the Young Evanston Artists festival.

In 2008, EDE launched Jump for Joy, a 6-week session of dance classes for young dancers with physical and/or developmental challenges. It is now offered annually for free each spring. In 2012, EDE introduced ede2, a second company for dancers in middle school with an outreach mission of bringing free dance to underserved populations at community centers, libraries, schools, and nursing homes. Across both EDE and ede2, over 250 dancers have performed in Evanston over the past 25 years.

EDE contributes to the city's artistic life by collaborating with partners and organizations throughout the Evanston community. Each year since 2004, EDE has performed with the Evanston Symphony Orchestra in their holiday concert. ede2 performs annually at sites including the Evanston Library, the Presbyterian Homes, and King Arts. This year, ede2 is completing an eight-week residency at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Center's after school program. In 2021, EDE became a member of EPAC – the Evanston Performing Arts Collective, which is dedicated to cultivating local collaborations amongst Evanston's arts organizations making performances affordable and available to the community. In all its work, EDE strives to demonstrate their commitment to the principles of equity, inclusion, and diversity. Now in its 25th anniversary season, the Ensemble is helmed by Artistic Director Christina Ernst, who has been a key creative force since 2000, and ede2 Artistic Director, Kara Roseborough, who is an EDE alum and social justice activist as well. We, the board, feel that our organization is a dedicated community institution, benefitting both dancers and audiences by creating joyful art, and is poised to bring dance to Evanston for another 25 years.

The Board of EDE: Milner Seifert, Melanie Wright, Lauren Biolsi, Patricia Acha, Melissa Joy Dobbins, Christina Ernst, Jennifer Higgins, Faye Jacobs, Ariel Orlov, Béa Rashid, Christine Robinson, Sharon Robinson, Regina Sant'Anna, Chris Tirres, Kara Roseborough, and Paula Sjogerman

48. Studio 3/Kids Create Change

I would love to nominate Studio 3 - Kids Create Change organization for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. Kids Create Change has made significant contribution to the Evanston art community. They have created a culturally responsive, social-emotional art program for young people in Evanston. Their work centers on using art making for children to explore individual and collective history and identity and to share and honor lived experiences. Kids Create Change has helped young people in Evanston make meaningful connections and foster positive relationship through art. It also encourages creativity to build community and effect social change.

Kid Create Change activities have included school programs, community projects and events, and workshops and professional development for educators.

Kids Create Change has fostered social-emotional development and centered on antiracism and social justice work for young people.

I think Studio 3 & Kids Create Change Organization is an amazing addition to Evanston and is an important organization making a huge positive impact on the Evanston community.

Becky Huston

49. Music Institute of Chicago

As the newest member of the Music Institute of Chicago's (MIC) leadership team, it is my pleasure to nominate our organization—which is celebrating its 90th Anniversary—for a 2021 Mayor's Award for the Arts.

Founded in 1931 as the School of Musical Arts and Crafts by Dorothy and David Dushkin, musicians ahead of their time who believed that quality music education should be accessible to all, MIC has evolved into one of the largest and most reputable music schools in the country. Known for its innovative teaching approach, a first-rate faculty, and a drive to ensure equitable access to music, MIC

prides itself on providing high-quality education, world-class performances, and countless moments of inspiration for the community.

Each year, MIC serves nearly 2,000 students across 75 IL communities, 20 states, and 4 countries through the Community Music School (equating to 61,704 hours of music instruction). Much of this work happens at and through our two Evanston campus locations: Downtown Evanston at 1702 Sherman Avenue (MIC's headquarters) and Evanston East at 1490 Chicago Avenue, which houses Nichols Concert Hall. Designed in 1912 by Solon S. Beman, acquired by MIC in 2001, and transformed into a state-of-the-art performance space in 2003, the Hall is a 550-seat performance space that doubles as a cultural anchor and civic hub for the city.

In a typical year, Nichols Concert Hall is home to student recitals, faculty concerts, artists in residence, chamber music series, lectures, recordings, workshops and master classes, and special events like the 2012 Billy Strayhorn Jazz Festival, the 2020 George Crumb Festival, and the annual Chicago Duo Piano Festival. The converted building, featuring a fully restored, 1914 E. M. Skinner pipe organ, received the Richard H. Driehaus Award for best adaptive use by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois. Since its inception, it has brought the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Pinchas Zukerman, Terrell Stafford, and Paquito D'Rivera direct to Evanston.

Echoing Evanston's goal to ensure all individuals feel welcome and empowered to shape their community experience, this year MIC teams up with Strings of Latin America to produce *Celebración de la Música Latinoamericana*, a guest artist series featuring the music of Latin American composers, past and present. The venture creates a window for Evanston's robust Latino population to experience and share their rich classical musical history with a broader community in a highly visible public sphere.

We also continue to make investments in our city through community partnerships and outreach initiatives that transcend socio-economic and geographic participation barriers. Programs such as Third Coast Suzuki Strings already provide more than thirty weeks of consistent music instruction to underserved school students, 100% free of charge and right in their own backyard. We now look toward an Evanston expansion in 2022.

The Music Institute of Chicago is relentless in its mission to create innovative pathways for individuals of all ages and from all backgrounds to develop a lifelong engagement with music, and it has proven itself time and again to be an exceptional resource, citizen, and neighbor—one worthy of a Mayor's Award for the Arts.

With thanks for your consideration,

Lisa Brown

50. Funkadesi

We'd like to nominate the musical band Funkadesi for the Mayor's Award for the Arts. They are a remarkable band made up of individual artists who, together, create musical magic, joyfulness and audience togetherness in whatever venue they play. They are a true crowd-pleaser.

We had the pleasure of hosting Funkadesi on September 17 last month for our first outdoor Jamming Jean concert at the Levy Senior Center (normally our Jamming Jean concerts are indoors and recently have been virtual.).

Watching the crowd lift their hands and dance in unison to the first strains of the music was delightful, but even before the band struck the first note, the gathering audience seemed enthralled by the vibe the band gives off during set-up and rehearsal. It was estimated that 250-400 people would attend for

the night, but we believe at least 600 people showed up. My colleagues and I noted a sense of peace and harmony in the crowd. People smiled, laughed and thoroughly enjoyed the beats of the world music that Funkadesi plays. It was like watching a human alchemy of excitement and harmony and peace all co-existing in each pair of eyes and ears in the field. For almost two hours, Funkadesi played and blanketed the crowd with rhythms, beats and harmonies that both calmed and excited the concert-goers. Until a huge rainstorm hit at the very end, the Levy Senior Center, Funkadesi and 600 people were having a beautiful and transformative Friday night under a sunset, a rainbow and then the stars. Knowing that the pandemic has limited so many people in what they can and should do in crowd situations, we were delighted to have such a well-attended free event on a lovely evening in September. We attribute our concert's success to the draw that only a world-music band like Funkadesi can bring. They bring the word "togetherness" to life.

Judy Newton

51. Youth Chorus of the North Shore

I nominate the Youth Chorus of the North Shore (YCNS) for the Mayor's Awards for the Arts. My daughter has been a member for 6 years and is currently an eighth grader at St. Athanasius.

YCNS is a youth choral group for kids in grades 2-8 where they sing diverse and challenging repertoire and learn valuable skills in music literacy and vocal training, cultivate new friendships and gain confidence through performance.

YCNS is divided into two ensembles: Alegria, for 2nd-4th graders, and Meraki, for 5th-8th graders. The repertoire is interdisciplinary, multicultural and multilingual. Kids not only learn new music, but each song's history and composer.

During the pandemic, the director, Lauren Sklar, held shorter rehearsals outside, under the pavilions at Lovelace Park and in singers' backyards. She created a safe, nurturing way for the singers to safely maintain their musical practice and social connections. Having this creative and social outlet for my daughter during the pandemic was priceless.

During the pandemic, Ms. Sklar offered free singing classes over zoom for Evanston kids in grades 1-12 taught by herself and a group of local music teachers.

YCNS is committed to removing financial barriers to participation. For several years, they have allowed families to pay what they can for their child to participate and covered any additional expenses for uniforms or experiences (such as attending a Northwestern basketball game after singing the national anthem). Concerts are always free to the public. The YCNS also maintains gender and racial diversity in its board.

YCNS serves the Evanston community by training the young singers in its ensembles, but also by providing free singing classes to all children in the community. The significant contributions YCNS has made to the arts in Evanston make it a deserving recipient of the Mayor's Awards for the Arts. Thank you for your consideration.

Claire Labbe



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Review of proposed mission, vision, and values the Evanston Art Council
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Chair of the Art Council, Toby Sachs, recommends members of the Arts Council set a one-time meeting to review the mission, vision and values of the Evanston Arts Council.

Council Action:

For Discussion

Summary:

Emerging from the Art Council's September 11, 2021 retreat were proposed drafts of the Evanston Art Council's mission, vision, and values. These drafts were discussed at the September 14 Art Council meeting. Members of the Art Council were instructed to submit feedback prior to the October 12, 2021 meeting.

Attachments:

[Mission , vision, values and next steps](#)

These drafts emerged from our retreat on 9/11.

Please add any thoughts and suggestions as comments here on Mission, Vision, Values, and Next Steps. We will then bring these back for discussion at our next meeting on 10/12.

Mission

To nourish and nurture a community where creative expression thrives and artists flourish.

Vision

Evanston will be known as a place where creative expression is highly prized, richly supported and serves the whole community.

Values

Art should be for everyone. It should be inclusive, not exclusive.

We support decolonization of the arts and value all forms of creative expression.

We value the voices of artists to enrich lives and move society forward.

The arts are vital. Without art, we are not fully human.

Add any suggestions here:

Phasing of Next Steps



Add any suggestions here and do sign up to work on projects you're interested in:

Relaunch:

Grants: Krista

Resources: Toby



Memorandum

To: Members of the Arts Council
From: Tasheik Kerr, Assistant to the City Manager
Subject: Evanston Arts Council Annual Update
Date: October 12, 2021

Recommended Action:

Chair of the Art Council, Toby Sachs, recommends members of the Arts Council accept and place on file the Evanston Art Council annual report.

Council Action:

For Action: Accept and Place on File

Summary:

Annually, the Evanston Art Council presents an update to the Human Services Committee regarding its activities, highlights of the year, and upcoming activities. Attached is the Evanston Art Council update for the calendar year 2021.

Attachments:

[Arts Council Update](#)



**Update to
Human Services Committee**

10/4/21

Who we are








- 12 visual, theater, and music artists, gallerists, funders, and consultants
- 7 identify as BIPOC, 6 are women
- “Evanston will be known as a place where creative expression is highly prized, richly supported, and serves the whole community.”*

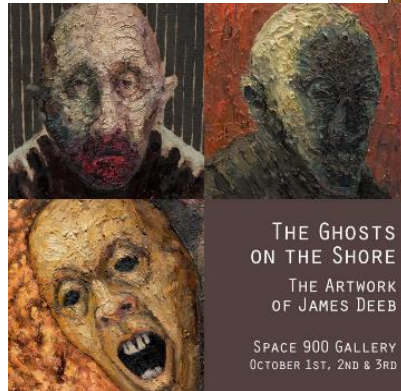




Highlights

-  Keeping the arts alive
-  Re-imagining our grants
-  Who we support
-  Working to increase our revenue
-  *A Bright Night for the Arts*

The arts are roaring back!



FLEETWOOD-JOURDAIN THEATRE PRESENTS
TWILIGHT : LOS ANGELES 1992
 by Anna Deavere Smith Directed by Tim Rhoze
 Featuring Jazzma Pryor



SAT, OCT 2 AT 7PM & SUN, OCT 3 AT 3PM
 NOYES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER Artwork by Jevold Simmons


Anna Deavere Smith's performance piece *Twilight: Los Angeles* is a timely, powerful, documentary performance play that raises questions about race, power, truth, and justice in the aftermath of the '92 Rodney King beating. It reveals how myths, misinformation, and misunderstanding can lead not only to prejudice and stereotyping but also violence.

Visit www.fjtheatre.com for tickets and information.
 Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre



Northshore Concert Band
 September 17 at 8:29 AM · 🌐

Evanston Made Presents
BAAM
 BIG ASS ART MONTH
 OCT. 2021



FEATURING:
 BILL BRIEN - LAKOTA, DAKOTA, CHIPPEWA, METIS
 Thursday, Sept 16, 2021 | 6 PM - 7 PM(CT)
 Via Zoom (Tickets on Eventbrite)

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
 September 16 at 2:46 PM · 🌐



EVENTBRITE.COM
 The Realm Of Senses Presents: Bach to the USSR
 Immersive concert of 300 years of music from Bach to Beatles with ...

CREATIVE AGING FEST
FOUNTAIN SQUARE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH 1-4 PM



3 15 THE MOTHER the Mather

SUN, OCT 10 AT 1 PM
 Creative Aging Arts Festival
 Evanston's Fountain Square

Don't miss [Funkadesi](#) tonight at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge!
****OUTDOORS****
 5 p.m. and FREE!... See More



RAGTIME
 MUSIC THEATER WORKS
 OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 7

Directed by: [Stacey Flaster](#)
 Music Director/Conductor: [Roger L. Bingham](#)
 Choreographer: [Ariel Etana Triunfo](#)



Re-imagining our grants in 2020 and 2021



- ① We overhauled the Cultural Fund Grants in light of
 - Pandemic
 - Heightened focus on racial equity
 - Input from our Equity Working Group
- ① To make the grants more inclusive:
 - Community arts groups invited to apply
 - Streamlined to 3 questions rather than 7
 - Provided mentors for less experienced grant writers
 - Announced applications from BIPOC organizations and programs will be favored
 - Judging panel predominantly BIPOC

2021 Cultural Fund Grants more inclusive



- 🌀 Applications went up **53%** vs. 2019
- 🌀 **50%** had never applied before
- 🌀 Same total of \$30,000 distributed to **22** grantees vs. 12 in 2019
- 🌀 **36%** of the grantees had never applied before
- 🌀 **86%** of grants went to BIPOC organizations or projects primarily serving BIPOC or underserved populations
 - i.e., **19 out of 22** grants, vs. 3 out of 12 in 2019

Cultural Fund Grantees 2021



Project specifics



Applicant	Description	Applicant	Description
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian	Hiring indigenous local artists to give free online workshops and demonstrations that are open to all.	Performance in Place Theatre Co.	Home performances, screenings and streaming that interrogate the question 'What makes home?' across diverse Evanston households.
Piven Theatre Workshop	Partnering with organizations to provide arts programming for schools, DCFS, those with neuro-diversities, and with developmental challenges.	North Shore Choral Society	An 'Arts Reach Evanston' program for the underserved students in the after-school program at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center.
The Musical Offering	Towards funding a 'Women Composers Performance Series' of three concerts, in person and live-streamed.	Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre	Bringing their highly esteemed, majority BIPOC dance performances from Chicago to Evanston at Studio 5.
Evanston Symphony Orchestra	Free virtual music classes for K and Pre-K children in families identified as vulnerable by the school district and a free open-air Summer concert.	Levy Senior Center Foundation	Mounting the Fran Randall Concert Series for seniors, planned for three times this year, featuring 4-6 student musicians from local music programs.
Open Studio Project	Art Therapy for Early Childhood Low-Income Preschools, in partnership with Childcare Network of Evanston, to prepare kids for kindergarten.	Curt's Cafe	To develop a mural, for and with the young adults living in at-risk situations who participate at Curt's Café for work and life skills training.
Art Encounter	Art partnership program with the Center for Independent Futures, for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).	Music Institute of Chicago	To support 'Music on Grove'- a day of free live music, crafts, food, and community fellowship.
Evanston In-School Music Association	Two free community concerts, in neighborhoods often underserved by the arts; likely Fleetwood Jourdain Community Center and Robert Crown.	The Juliani Ensemble	Low-cost concerts on a streaming platform, to bring world class chamber music to those with lack of easy access, such as the young and the elderly.
Evanston Dance Ensemble	EDE2 is specifically tasked to bring free or very low ticket price dance performances to underserved areas.	Kitchen Table Stories Collective	Centering the voices of the local AAPI diaspora, the goal is to create collective power through art, with their stories and traditional practices.
Evanston Art Center	Continuing curatorial fellowships for BIPOC individuals to mount exhibitions of work by people of color.	Mudlark Theater	A three-show outdoor season with masked actors and audience. This summer is planned to be all in-person and outdoors.
Kids Create Change	To help open a community art studio and gallery to center the art of young BBPOC people as an expression, exploration, or act of social justice.	ASÉ	Youth perform a Black History and Kwanzaa concert, continuing the partnership between ASÉ, Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, and the EPL.
The Actors Gymnasium	Funding a series of anti-bias and antiracism workshops for all staff/faculty, and structuring the process of equity development across the organization.	Evanston History Center	"One Year Later: An Evanston Survey Documenting the 2020-2021 Pandemic" is a follow-up work to last year's pandemic archive.

Working to increase our revenue



Secured:

- ④ \$50,000 from Good Neighbor Racial Equity fund
 - Partnering with social service providers to build community resiliency through the arts
- ④ \$60,000 from the Albion and Evanston Community Foundation
 - Commissioning public art in Fountain Square to honor the Black experience

Applied for, awaiting outcome:

- ④ Raised our ask to IACA by 4x, from \$10,000 to \$40,000
- ④ NEA for \$30,000 to double our Cultural Fund Grants
- ④ NEA for \$150,000 for general operating funds for arts .orgs' recovery

 **It is critical to show other funders that we have City \$ support**

Going forward



- 🌟 Thank you for your continued support!
- 🌟 Please join us for *A Bright Night for the Arts*
 - Thursday 11/4, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
 - Evanston Art Center on Central
 - The Mayor's Awards for the Arts
 - Arts showcase
 - It's fun, free and all are welcome!

