

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Arts Council of the Valley Awards \$11,700 in Spring 2024 Advancing the Arts Grants**

HARRISONBURG, VA – Arts Council of Valley (ACV) announces the allocation of \$11,700 in Spring 2024 Advancing the Arts grant funding to support eight Harrisonburg-Rockingham area arts projects. Since launching the grants program in 2001, ACV has awarded more than \$498,300 to area artists and art educators.

“This investment reflects ACV’s continuing dedication to promoting innovation, fostering community involvement, and stimulating economic development,” noted ACV Executive Director Jenny Burden. “All Advancing the Arts grants invest in the vital arts infrastructure of our community,” she added. “These awards are a concrete expression of ACV’s commitment to creative projects designed to cultivate the arts, create experiences, and connect communities.”

Advancing the Arts grants were awarded in two categories: *Arts for Education*, provided to educators and educational organizations, and *Creative Inspiration*, allocated to individual artists. Both types of grants support community-based projects to be completed by Oct 31, 2024.

A third grant category, Public Art Forward, has been reopened until 5 pm June 2 to receive proposals for a new work of sculpture to be installed within the City of Harrisonburg’s Arts & Cultural District by January 31, 2025. The grant, which provides up to \$15,000, is privately funded by the Forward family. Details are available at [valleyarts.org/public-art-forward](http://valleyarts.org/public-art-forward).

Arts for Education grants were awarded to:

- Susan Elliott, OASIS Fine Art & Craft, for *Life Is a Tapestry*;
- Trace Feng, MIMA Music, for *Band Together Skyline Middle School*;
- Harriet Flynn, Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation, for *Art in the Park*; and
- Megan Kaspar for *Harrisonburg Songtuary*.

Creative Inspiration recipients are:

- David Brennan for *Concordia: Service Animals, Disability, and Generative Permeable Boundaries*;
- Jess Daddio for *Portrait of a Wildflower*;
- Aili Huber, Silk Moth Stage, for *The Grown-Up*; and
- Holly Hanks Wanta, Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative, for *Spring Dance Performance 2024*.

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Advancing the Arts grant awardees may receive one grant - ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 - per calendar year. Matching funds are not required for grant submissions.

Fall 2024 grant cycle information will be available at [valleyarts.org/advancing-the-arts-grants](http://valleyarts.org/advancing-the-arts-grants) beginning in early July. The application deadline for the Fall cycle is 5 pm Oct 11, 2024, for projects taking place between Nov 1, 2024 and May 31, 2025.

Arts Council of the Valley is located at 311 South Main Street in Downtown Harrisonburg, Virginia. Programs are supported, in part, by 2024 Cultivating the Arts Platinum Sponsors: James McHone Jewelry, Kathy Moran Wealth Group, Matchbox Realty, and Riner Rentals.

Arts Council of the Valley (ACV) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to cultivating the arts, creating experiences, and connecting communities throughout the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Since it was established in 2000, ACV has grown into a multi-faceted community organization that fosters innovative partnerships among area businesses, civic organizations, schools, and artists. Today, ACV manages Court Square Theater and Smith House Galleries, funds local art projects through its Advancing the Arts grant program (awarding more than \$498,300 since 2001), supports public art initiatives, and coordinates monthly First Fridays of the Valley community gatherings.

ACV is supported in part by the City of Harrisonburg, the Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. To learn more, visit [valleyarts.org](http://valleyarts.org).

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