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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton Community Foundation announces new grants to the arts

Grants from new *Creative Arts Fund* will supplement city commitment to stabilize local arts scene

Hamilton Community Foundation today announced new grants totalling \$242,692 from year one of its Creative Arts Fund.

HCF's funding was committed during last spring's municipal budget discussion, as an offer to top up the City of Hamilton's own proposed arts funding.

"More programming, more access and, especially, increased stability are all important to a healthy arts scene," said Terry Cooke, Hamilton Community Foundation's president & CEO. "We are so pleased to be able to make such a substantial contribution to this sector which plays a critical role in creating a vibrant city."

The grants represent the first installment of a three-year commitment by HCF of up to \$600,000. They represent a new component of the Foundation's long-standing record of support to the local cultural scene, which totals more than \$3.5 million in the last decade alone.

The Creative Arts Fund grants announced today focus on four areas: providing arts experiences for young people from low-income families, neighbourhood arts projects, building the capacity of arts organizations to carry out their work, and supporting arts performances and exhibits and include financial support to:

- Marketing, infrastructure, workshops, competition costs for Hamilton Youth Poets
- Strategic planning for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra
- Arts, theatre and literary festivals as well as free performances by the HPO and Theatre Aquarius
- A web-based program that links organizations who need space for artistic endeavours with organizations who have space available
- A youth council to be established by the Art Gallery of Hamilton
- A choral administrator to support the Bach Elgar Choir
- Adding murals and art to alleys and laneways within the Gibson/Landsdale and Sherman neighbourhoods, and a local history mural in Corktown

"Hamilton's creative industries are proving to be a catalyst for investment and growth in other sectors," said Mayor Fred Eisenberger. "Together with the Hamilton Community Foundation we are making the largest single arts investment in our city's history. This commitment recognizes how vital arts and culture innovation is to Hamilton's future."

Last year Hamilton Community Foundation gave grants totalling \$5.8 million to 227 community organizations..

Backgrounder: [List of grants from Creative Arts Fund](#)

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Hamilton Community Foundation has been working to drive positive change in Hamilton since 1954. We do this by helping people give in a way that has meaning to them and impact in the community, providing grants and financing to charitable organizations and initiatives and bringing people together to address priority issues that affect Hamiltonians.