

Community Cultural Connections Grants

In response to *Imagine Chattanooga 20/20*, ArtsBuild implemented a program which makes arts and culture more accessible to underserved populations, inclusive of geographic area, ethnicity, age and individuals with disabilities.

The Diversity section of *Imagine Chattanooga 20/20* suggests the following goal:

“To ensure that neighborhoods and underserved communities are better served, a special neighborhood arts and culture program should be developed that provides small grants for neighborhood and community cultural initiatives.”

Community Cultural Connections (CCC) grants are made possible by the generosity of ArtsBuild donors.

FY 2021 Community Cultural Connections Grant Recipients

Alan P. Shuptrine to support *I Come From A Place: Celebrating Literacy and History through Art*, a program of virtual visits to local elementary, middle and high schools by the artist with watercolor painting classes and lessons in regional art history.

Chattanooga Girls Choir to fund the Chattanooga Girls Choir Summer Camp Concert, a free outdoor concert for the community showcasing their work.

Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Tennessee to fund Studio E Art Therapy, a program that gives children ages 6 – 17 with epilepsy and seizure disorders the opportunity to creatively express themselves and build supportive connections.

Freedom Sings USA to fund creative songwriting classes for local veterans, providing creative tools to cope with experiences of anxiety, depression, and trauma.

Friends of the Chattanooga Public Library to fund the purchase of video recording equipment. Due to COVID-19, the original grant program Symphonic Tales was unable to take place.

Keelah Jackson to support events at Black-owned and curated Keeody Gallery, including free art classes, workshops, and lectures for a variety of age groups.

Kreneshia Whiteside to fund *Eye Exam: Dinner and a Movement*, an immersive art experience including visual art, a dance performance, and a shared meal.

Move N Groove Kidz to support the Garvey program, a mobile creative dance, gymnastics and capoeira program offering classes to Black-owned and predominantly Black-attended preschools and daycares.

Nathaniel Stepney to fund the Branoogan Art Show, a community-building collaborative event featuring visual art as well as music.

Peggy Douglas to fund *Southern Exposure*, a two-act theatrical and musical production approaching the subject of life in Chattanooga in the mid-20th century, produced as a play for radio due to COVID-19.

Resilient Documentary Project to produce *Bigger Than Me*, a short 13-minute documentary that tells the story of Clark Brewer, an African-American musician from Chattanooga who introduces his community to the outdoors despite the fact that they're the most underrepresented group in these spaces.

Ross Sawyer to support Art Haus / City Farms Grower Coalition Garden Project, an artistic program for Chattanooga youth ages 7 – 12 to create garden markers for City Farms Grower Coalition.

Scenic City Shakespeare to fund accessible theatrical and educational programs, including remote theatrical productions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Songbirds Foundation, Inc. to support Guitars for Kids, a program bringing music education, instruments, and additional equipment to a Chattanooga school without comprehensive music education, and to fund the Foundation's continuing Music Therapy program for youth with disabilities and critical illnesses.

Voci Virili Men's Consort, Voice of Reason Women's Ensemble and Hops & Opera to present *The Chattanooga Spiritual Ensemble: The Concert and Theatre Music of African-Americans*, a community concert featuring African-American spirituals and music by African-American composers in opera, musical theatre, and song.

Young Ladies of Power to fund the Fall Break Camp Retreat, a five-day retreat in Booker T. Washington State Park offering art sessions, fitness exercises, and motivational speaking events for girls ages 4 – 15.