

From: [Nicholas Pjevach](#)
To: [Madison Arts](#)
Subject: Fwd: In support of the MAC Legacy Grant
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:29:18 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Karin,

This letter is in support of the amazing Madison Arts Commission Legacy Grant program. This category is genius for a bunch of reasons. First, as seasoned arts organizations, what we do in and for the Madison community is an intrinsic part of its cultural fabric. Collectively, we are responsible for uplifting, inspiring, and educating our engaged community members and attracting new residents and visitors to our city. We provide hope!

Second, although our organizations' missions are consistent, the content of each of our seasons varies widely from traditional to contemporary art and performance, often times in a single concert/performance/show! We present the best of the wide range of what it means to be human! We are agile and responsive to social conditions and issues.

Additionally, we can all agree that a diverse range of art forms is important. As we pursue contemporary art and performance, we sometimes do so in a framework of healthy traditions. Intrinsic to creativity is invention within limits. This fosters—requires!--new solutions, new perspectives, and results in art that is relevant and speaks to the here and now. You might be able to guess that I could be making the case for the classical music form—from any tradition. The performers are living, breathing musicians who present a wide range of compositions from last year to the distant past. There are composers, living breathing, who are creating new music today. One our audience members wrote about our programming, “contrasting genres enliven both.” The organizations who apply for Legacy Grants are part of these great traditions: music, dance, theater, visual art, poetry, spoken word, and more. In addition to creating art in the moment, we do so on a continuum, but it is rooted in timelessness—it’s about the human experience.

Third, the Legacy Grant short application form is critical to us being able to perform our job duties effectively. You well know that the amount of grant funding we receive is very small—yet so very important!—and our time is limited. Many of us work multiple jobs, it is no secret.

Last, it is important for the City of Madison to visibly support its established arts organizations with long track records of producing excellent work. It matters to us and to our audiences! Also, we can be counted on to provide leadership and support to one another, uplifting all of our organizations. That is what makes community. You can call on us at any time to contribute our time and expertise.

Please share this with the commissioners and MAC board members. We are grateful for your support.

Warmly,

Samantha Crownover
Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society

James Waldo
Grace Presents Concert Series

Erin Johansen, board member
Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective/
Sugar Maple Music Festival Youth Music Workshop
(We are an all-volunteer organization handling numerous events throughout the year. This grant is a lifeline for our youth workshop and the short-form is invaluable.)

James Latimer
Capitol City Band Association, Inc.

Robert E Cleary & Lisa Thurrell
Artistic Directors
Susanne Voeltz
Associate Director
Kanopy Dance
(This is such an important grant for us too.)

Saira Frank
Opera for the Young

Donna Peckett
Danielle Dresden
TNW Ensemble Theater

Orange Schroeder
Handel Aria Competition

Ray Kumapayi, P.E.
President
African Association of Madison for Africa Fest

Karen Reece, President
Urban Community Arts Network

Dr. Albert Pinsonneault, artistic director
Madison Choral Project

Anne Ruffley
Madison Children's Museum

Jody Clowes
Director, James Watrous Gallery
Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters

Aimee Teo Broman

Madison Savoyards Board Treasurer

Bob Queen, President

Deb Fritsch, Vice President

Judy Olson, Treasurer

Representing the Sessions at Garver Feed Mill

Samantha Crownover (she/her)

Executive Director

Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society

Summer Chamber Music Festival

FIRE FROM HEAVEN

June 6 - 22, 2025

P.O. Box 2348

Madison, WI 53701

608.255.9866 office

608.576.6696 cell

bachdancing.org

From: [Nicholas Pjevach](#)
To: [Madison Arts](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for MAC Legacy Grants
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:29:33 PM

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To Whom It May Concern;

We write this statement in support of the Madison Arts Commission's Legacy Grants program.

The positive impacts of the Legacy Grants program are both cultural and administrative.

Culturally speaking, MAC's Legacy Grants program provides an extremely important service to the greater Madison community by supporting arts organizations that create diverse and engaging activities, from the African Association's Africa Fest and Bach Dancing & Dynamite's 33rd Chamber Music Festival to Family Art Making at the Monroe Street Arts Center, Concerts on the Square, and the Sessions at McPike Park.

And that was just in 2024.

These diverse events make it possible for people of all different age groups and backgrounds to find arts activities they can enjoy and afford. But it's support from the Madison Arts Commission's Legacy Grants program that helps make these events happen.

The Legacy Grants program offers applicants with an established track record a simplified application process, albeit one with a reduced level of support.

This has multiple administrative benefits:

- It makes it possible for emerging artists and organizations to apply for larger levels of funding, which can help facilitate their development
- Emerging artists will face less competition from more established artists when they apply to MAC
- More established arts organizations can spend more time serving Madison residents with their programming and less time writing grant proposals

In light of the extremely significant cultural and administrative benefits flowing from the Madison Arts Commission Legacy Grants program, we urge you to offer this program your full and ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Danielle Dresden

Co-Producing Artistic Director,

TNW Ensemble Theater

Donna Peckett

Co-Producing Artistic Director,

TNW Ensemble Theater

From: [Nicholas Pjevach](#)
To: [Handel Aria Competition](#)
Cc: [Madison Arts](#)
Subject: Re: Legacy Grant Program
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:55:52 PM

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Thank you for your feedback, Orange. I will be sure it gets shared with the entire Commission. As someone who has also been on both sides of the funding equation, I also believe that it is meaningful to remove some administrative burden from successful programs that are working. With the limited dollars Madison Arts Commission has to grant every year, I am personally very proud of both the Legacy Grant as well as the continually improvements we are making to the full application to be encouraging of art occurring all throughout the city.

Best,
-Nick

Nick Pjevach

Chair

[Madison Arts Commission](#)

he/anything respectful

nick.pjevach@gmail.com

262-853-7094

On Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 11:17 AM Handel Aria Competition

<handelariacompetition@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Karin and Nick,

Like many small arts organizations, the Handel Aria Competition struggles to find funding. The Legacy Grant from the Madison Arts Commission is one of the few grants available to us, and is essential to being able to host our international event here in Madison. The fact that we can use a shorter form as a recognized organization is much appreciated - as Sam Crownover said in the letter we co-signed, our time is limited. Many of us have many activities we are juggling in addition to the arts group.

As a former MAC commissioner, I wish the Legacy Grant had been in place during the time that I served. It's a great idea, and I hope it will continue.

All my best,
Orange Schroeder

Handel Aria Competition
P. O. Box 5554
Madison, WI 53705
www.HandelAriaCompetition.org

From: [Nicholas Pjevach](#)
To: [Madison Arts](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for Madison Arts Commission Legacy Grant
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 5:22:28 PM

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

From: Laura Lob <louloubear@me.com>
Date: March 16, 2025 at 3:12:12 PM CDT
To: nick.pjevach@gmail.com
Subject: **Support for Madison Arts Commission Legacy Grant**

Dear Nick Pjevach,

This letter is in support of the Madison Arts Commission Legacy Grant. Cycropia Aerial Dance, Inc. has been a Legacy grant recipient for over 8 years. It has allowed us to continue our performances at the Orton Park Festival, which are outdoors and free to the public, as the grant provides a cushion against the loss of one or both nights due to rain or inclement weather.

We partner every year with the Marquette Neighborhood Association, and the first night of the festival focuses on families with young children. Our goal is to inspire the thousands of community members of all ages who attend the festival each year with a performance of our uniquely accessible aerial-based dance and circus art skills.

In addition, as other Legacy grant recipients have mentioned, the short form is critical to help us balance the many duties each board member tries to fulfill.

Here is a quote we'd like to share from Katherine Davey, Chair, Marquette Neighborhood Association Festival Committee:

"For over 20 years, Cycropia Aerial Dance has kicked off Madison's original outdoor music event, Orton Park Festival. Cycropia's mesmerizing performances are a highlight for families and individuals, lighting up the oak canopy of Madison's oldest park. You know you're nearing the last weekend of August when you see eastsiders making their early morning run to Orton to put blankets down to hold a viewing spot for the performance. Cycropia is the featured act on Family Night -- the first night of the festival -- and the headliner the following night, and draws a crowd of roughly 3,500 each night. These performances are a defining feature of this beloved event, and contribute to its success."

Please share this with the commissioners and MAC board members.

Thank you,

Laura Lob
Board Member
Cycropia Aerial Dance, Inc.

Orton Park Festival, August 29-30th, 2025