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Springfield Arts Commission Opens Spring Heritage Arts Grant Cycle, Triples Awards

Grant application deadline is March 21 for projects contributing to arts and culture in the City of Springfield.

The Springfield Arts Commission (SAC) is facing a new problem as the March 21 deadline for its spring Heritage Arts Grant (HAG) cycle looms: the organization has more money than applicants.

After making significant changes to the grant program – including tripling the amount of grant funds to \$4,500 for the 2017 fiscal year – Heritage Arts Grant Chair Summer Young-Jelinek says the group had only one applicant in the fall cycle, resulting in a large carry-over to the current cycle.

“We’re thrilled to unveil the changes to the Heritage Arts Grant program, which both increase the amount of money we are able to offer and ensure that the grants support projects that will preserve and celebrate the culture of our city,” said Young-Jelinek. “Unfortunately, over the years we’ve had to turn down many worthy groups due to lack of funds, and people may be choosing not to apply because they feel their chances are too low.”

With \$3,900 remaining in the program to support arts and cultural programs in the City of Springfield, applicants’ chances are actually quite high, said Young-Jelinek.

“We had 17 organizations in our largest application pool in recent history,” she said. “Given our current budget, we can fund between three and 15 projects – giving an applicant in a typical pool at least a one in six chance of being funded.”

The new grant application and guidelines may be found on the Springfield Arts Commission’s website at springfieldartscommission.org/heritage_grants.html.

The deadline for the spring cycle is 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 21.

The Heritage Arts Grant program was developed to encourage community-based public arts programs to enrich and promote the cultural heritage of the City of Springfield. The grants are funded by City of Springfield room taxes and administered by the Springfield Arts Commission.

Grant awards will range from \$250 to \$1,500 per project. Past awards have supported projects such as the Springfield Alliance for Equality and Respect’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration; The Academy of Arts and Academics’ A3 Composition Project; and the Springfield School District’s Centro de Bienvenida Cesar Chavez Celebration.

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