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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The 2016 Community Arts Award Recipients Announced**

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Community Arts Awards.

Community Medal of Arts	Maryellen Hains
Community Medal of Arts	Ladislav Hanka
Community Medal of Arts	Thomas Knific
Community Medal of Arts	Janet VanValey
Theodore C. Cooper Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service	Michael Marchak
Business Arts Award	Michigan News Agency
Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award	Regina McLeod
Epic Award	Face Off Theatre Company
Award for Arts Leadership - Educator	Jim Turner
Award for Arts Leadership - Administrator	Gregory Waskowsky

The Awards will be presented on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Sunday Concerts in the Park in Bronson Park. The Sunday Concert, in collaboration with Crescendo Academy of Music, will feature students and instructors from their programs including Community Voices and the Crescendo Fiddlers. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. with the award presentation at 4:30 p.m. The Concert and Presentation Ceremony are free and open to the public. A reception will follow the Concert and Presentation at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. The reception is free but reservations would be appreciated. Reservations can be made by calling the Arts Council at 269.342.5059.

“The 2016 recipients of the Community Arts Awards join a distinguished group of artists, arts patrons, volunteers, businesses and arts groups. Each has contributed in and through the Arts as artist, educator, volunteer, supporter and/or patron to sustain and energize Kalamazoo’s artistic vitality and quality of life”, states Bryan Zocher, President, Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo Board of Directors.

**Community Medal of Arts**

The CMA recognizes an artist who is a leader in their field, has a significant body of creative activity, who has received local and/or national acclaim, and has impacted on our community through art. This award

encompasses all art forms, including but not limited to visual, musical, theatrical, literary, performing, multi-media, architecture or design.

### **Theodore C. Cooper Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service**

The recipient is to be a person, persons or group whose lives exemplify a broad range of service to the arts community that is not related to his/her professional occupation. The distinguished volunteer award may be given to any person or married couple.

### **Business Arts Award**

The Business Arts Award is presented to honor businesses in Kalamazoo County for their leadership commitment and vision in developing exemplary alliances with the arts and arts organizations. The award recognizes a business for creating outstanding initiatives with the arts and arts organization, furthering the educational development of youth, enhancing the economic vitality of the community and enriching the quality of life in our community.

### **Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award**

The Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award is designed to recognize and encourage the next generation of artists in our community. The winner is a student who has had an impact both in their field of study and in our community and is nominated by their arts teacher, director, or a community member. This award is generously supported by the Mary and Brooks Godfrey Family.

### **Epic Award**

The Epic Award recognizes a non-profit organization or program within Kalamazoo County that is of high artistic quality and serves to enhance life in our community through the arts. The award pays special attention to both long standing programs and organizations that have played a consistent role in the community and new organizations and programs that meet a previously unmet community need or focus area.

### **Arts Leadership Award**

The Arts Leader is an arts educator or arts administrator. The nominee is a recognized leader in the arts and/or the education community with an impact beyond his/her job description, a strong impact on the community through art, and positive and productive relationships in the community outside of his/her institution.

The Arts Council is very excited to collaborate with the Crescendo Academy of Music for this concert celebrating the recipients. The performance will feature students and instructors from Crescendo's programs including Community Voices and Crescendo Fiddlers.

The Crescendo Academy of Music offers private and group instruction in instrumental and vocal music from highly-qualified teachers and performers in Southwest Michigan. Crescendo provides opportunities for performances in a variety of local venues in music theory, composition and chamber ensembles.

Orff studio classes for children and adults and Music Together®, a nationally recognized early childhood music program. Preschool children through adults over the age of seventy are active in Crescendo's programs.

For more information on the Community Arts Awards and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, please visit [kalamazooarts.org](http://kalamazooarts.org).

**The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo was founded in 1966.  
Its mission is to enrich and engage the Kalamazoo community through the Arts.**

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