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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo Announces  
2017 Round 1 – Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative Grant Awards**

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo announces the 2017 Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative (KADI) grant awards. Eighteen applications were submitted for review in Round 1, which was due May 15, 2017, requesting nearly \$59,000 in funds, and of those, twelve were selected to receive funding totaling \$32,549.15.

Kalamazoo Artistic Development Initiative (KADI), funded by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, is divided into two categories – Artist Support and Arts Project. Artist Support, with a maximum ask of \$2,000, can be used for professional development, apprenticeships, certifications, conferences/training sessions. Arts Project support, with a maximum ask of \$4,500, includes creations of original works, installations, large-scale exhibitions and similar.

Applicants must meet eligibility requirements. These include: 1. Individual artists or groups without formal non-profit designation; 2. Must be a paid member in good standing of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo; and 3. Applicants must be at least 18 years-of-age by the deadline date. Funding priority will go to artists who live/work in Kalamazoo County and projects that occur in and benefit Kalamazoo County.

Applications are judged based on artistic merit, community impact, project management and feasibility. The project must benefit the Kalamazoo community, take place in the Kalamazoo community, benefiting a local artist or an artist having strong ties to the Kalamazoo community. Applications are scored and amounts are awarded by independent, volunteer panelists.

The following grants were awarded:

**Artist Support**

Kellen Deau	<i>Diversity in Digital Art</i>	\$2,000.00
Audrey Lipsey	<i>National Guild for Community Arts Education 2017 Conference</i>	\$1,345.00
Samuel Peters	<i>Audio Engineering Internship</i>	\$2,000.00
Traci Soule	<i>Cecchetti Council of America Teacher Training</i>	\$750.00

**Project Support**

Samantha Cooper	<i>Sonic Affirmations</i>	\$4,490.00
Martha Councell-Vargas	<i>Winged Messenger: Uniting the Americas in Artistic Flight</i>	\$2,000.00
Benje Daneman	<i>Program Launch Support of Kalamazoo Youth Jazz Orchestra</i>	\$4,500.00
Grayson Nye	<i>LUSHH Collaborative arts project</i>	\$1,147.15
Caitlyn Pelfresne	<i>Eye to Eye: Art for Community Outreach</i>	\$2,259.00
Cheryl VanEngen	<i>As You Grow: Teaching Tolerance with Hummingbirds and Spiders</i>	\$4,500.00
Patricia Villalobos Echeverría	<i>Retrace</i>	\$4,500.00
Mary Whalen	<i>Division of Birds, a Photographic Survey</i>	\$3,103.00

For more information on the funded projects or questions regarding re-granting programs of the Arts Council, contact Kristen Chesak, Executive Director at [kchesak@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:kchesak@kalamazooarts.org) or 269.342.5059.