

June 26, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Beth McCann

Deputy Director for Programs and External Communication

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

bmccann@kalamazooarts.org

269.342.5059

269.998.4864



The 2014 Community Arts Award Winners Announced

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2014 Community Arts Awards.

Community Medal of Arts	Mark Sahlgren
Community Medal of Arts	Dhera Strauss
Theodore Cooper/Volunteer Award	B. William Maxey
Youth Arts Award	Cullen O'Neil
Epic Award	West Michigan Glass Arts Center
Patron Award	Diane Robertson
Award for Arts Leadership	Raymond Jenkins
Award for Arts Leadership	Karen Matson

The awards will be presented on Sunday, July 13th at the Sunday Concerts in the Park in Bronson Park. The Sunday Concert, in collaboration with Fontana will feature the Gene Knific Trio. This Concert will be the kick off to Fontana's Summer Festival. 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.

"The Community Arts Awards has always been, and forever will be, about honoring those individuals and organizations who contribute so much to the creative quality of life in Kalamazoo", states D. Neil Bremer, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. "I am proud that the Arts Council has returned to the roots of celebrating these awards with our collaboration in Bronson Park and hope that our community will attend and show their appreciation of these honorees."

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.

Patron Award

The Patron Award acknowledges an individual or couple who have contributed significantly to the arts as patrons. Through their patronage they have made a sustained and/or transformational impact on this community through their support of the arts.

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 of Greater Kalamazoo was founded in 1966.
Its mission is to support, promote and fund the arts in the greater Kalamazoo area.**

###