HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

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Barr Foundation to Fund Continuation of Access Grant Program at Jean McDonough Arts Center

2023 Access Grant recipient Nathan D. Manna, Photo by UnityMike

Worcester, Mass. (November 21, 2024) The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts is delighted to announce the Barr Foundation will invest $400,000 over three years to continue the Access Grant Program at the Jean McDonough Arts Center. Implemented through a new partnership with Greater Worcester Community Foundation. $355,000 in Access Grant money will be available to fund grantee projects and $45,000 will cover administrative expenses.

The Barr Foundation's ongoing investment will ensure the JMAC continues to flourish as a vibrant hub for diverse artistic expression and cultural equity in the community. Using its expertise in community-driven grantmaking, Greater Worcester Community Foundation will run the two-step application process, convening a committee of community members that will review and select the organizations and creatives that will receive comprehensive support for a proposed project.

"The JMAC has proven itself a critical cultural home and community space, especially for Worcester's underserved creatives," explained Senior Program Officer for Arts & Creativity at the Barr Foundation, SueEllen Kroll. "We are proud to continue the Access Grant Program to catalyze and support new work from local creatives."

"The first two cycles of the Access Grant Program were both incredibly successful and hugely informative," shared Managing Director of the Jean McDonough Arts Center, Livy Scanlon. "Working with Greater Worcester Community Foundation will help us reach our largest, most diverse pool of applicants yet."

"We are thrilled to partner with the JMAC and the Barr Foundation on this latest round of Access Grants," said Vice President of Community Impact at Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Jonathan Cohen. "As a place-based funder with a long history of investing in the arts, this collaboration aligns with our goal to elevate arts and creativity across Worcester County."

In addition to covering JMAC venue rental and staffing costs, Access Grant funds may be used for artist stipends, materials, marketing, and other essential project costs, ensuring grantees have the resources needed to bring their creations to life. Preference will be given to projects that reflect the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and to projects that promise transformative growth for the individual creative or organization.

To review the JMAC Access Grant guidelines and learn how to apply, please click here.

An informational session will be held free and open to the public at the JMAC, 20 Franklin Street, Worcester, Mass. on Monday, December 2 at 6 PM. The session will be livestreamed and recorded for those who cannot attend in person. Click here to RSVP on Eventbrite. The deadline for submissions will be **January 2, 2025**.

Previous Access Grant Recipients

Listed alphabetically, the organizations, projects and individuals awarded Access Grant funding in 2022 and 2023 include:

- Bodies Moving
- Broadway in Worcester
- Casita Cultura Latina
- Coyote Way X: Expanded Cinema
- Crocodile River Music
- Don't Touch My Podcast
- Flamenco Worcester
- The Hanover Theatre Repertory
- Inner Voice Outer Change for Youth
- Jewish Theatre Company of Central Massachusetts
- JSDDance
- Nathan D. Manna
- Queer the Scene
- studioXpresents
- VOICES 21C
- Woo on Tap
- Worcester Writers' Collective

About the Barr Foundation

The Barr Foundation's mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets close to $3 billion and has contributed more than $1 billion to charitable causes.

About the Jean McDonough Arts Center

Comprised of the ever-changing Worcester PopUp and intimate BrickBox Theater, the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC) is a program of The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THTC). Individuals and groups can present or develop a wide range of work at the JMAC, including but not limited to work in theater, dance, film, music, performance art, visual art, fashion design and video game design.

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is central Massachusetts' leading community foundation, employing its expertise and resources to address the region's most urgent needs.

Since 1975, it has worked in partnership with donors to build a $200 million endowment composed of more than 600 named charitable funds and award over $167 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. For more information on the Foundation's programs and how to give, please visit www.greaterworcester.org.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and manages the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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