



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EXPLORE GWINNETT AWARDS GWINNETT CREATIVITY FUND PROJECT GRANTS

Inaugural arts grant program awards project funding to 12 local arts organizations

(Gwinnett County, GA) Explore Gwinnett is pleased to award a total of \$80,700 in grants to 12 Gwinnett County non-profit arts organizations through the Gwinnett Creativity Fund. Creativity Fund Grants will provide support for arts and cultural initiatives through Gwinnett County taking place throughout the first quarter of 2021.

“Explore Gwinnett is honored to administer the Gwinnett Creativity Fund and we are looking forward to seeing these unique arts projects come to fruition,” says Lisa Anders, Explore Gwinnett executive director.

Organizations receiving project grants from the Gwinnett Creativity Fund Operations Grant include:

1. **Aurora Theatre – “2 The Left: A Tribute to the Life of Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes, A Streaming Experience”** (\$10,000) – A prerecorded streaming musical based on Lisa Lopes a controversial member of the 90’s pop music phenomenon, TLC. More information [here](#).
2. **Broad St. Concert Band at Sugar Hill, Inc. – “A Bowl of Sweet Sounds”** (\$10,000) –A 3-D public art musical motif with uplighting will be featured in Downtown Sugar Hill, leading down to the Bowl. Broad Street partnered with the City of Sugar Hill for this project. More information [here](#).
3. **Button Art, Inc. – “Infinite Energy Center (IEC) Button Sculptures”** (\$5,000) – Two ‘Button Art’ public art sculptures at the IEC Complex, one entitled “Saxophone Player” and the other an interactive chalkboard sculpture at the Hudgens Center for Art and Learning. Button Art partnered with IEC and Sugarloaf CID for this project. More information [here](#).
4. **ESTA Solutions, Inc. – “Atlanta African Film and Fashion Festival”** (\$2,000) – A film and cultural festival celebrating African film, fashion, and culture. More information [here](#).
5. **Gwinnett Ballet Theatre – “The Nutcracker”** (\$7,500) – Gwinnett Ballet Theatre is celebrating their 40th annual production of the Nutcracker performed at the Infinite Energy Center Theatre featuring their GBT professional company, Sugarloaf Youth Ballet, professional guest artists and community members. More information [here](#).
6. **Let’s Fo-kes, Incorporated – “Let’s Fo-kes Presents AADR”** (\$5,000) – The African American Dance Review (AADR) is a cultural dance experience illustrating the story of African American dance from the beginning to end and everything in-between. More information [here](#).
7. **Lionheart Theatre Company – “Playing in the Dark Festival”** (\$1,858) – A walking event featuring scary stories, pumpkin painting, make-up horrors workshop, magic show, and a live play performance finale. More information [here](#).
8. **North Gwinnett Arts Association / Suwanee Arts Center – “Fall Outdoor Art Workshop Series”** (\$4,600) – NGAA is hosting 12 outdoor art workshops, 6 for adults and 6 for youth with topics such as photography, painting, drawing, and doodle sketching in Suwanee Town Center Park. More information [here](#).
9. **Spectrum Autism Support Group – “Spectrum Drama Club”** (\$3,100) - The club is open to children through young adults with HFA/Asperger’s Syndrome and their siblings, and they explore the art of improv, drama, puppets and music, allowing them to improve their communication skills within a small group or in front of a larger audience. 2020 performance will be The Lion King. More information [here](#).

10. **Suwanee Performing Arts – “Best of the Nutcracker”** (\$3,500) – SPA will be performing selections of The Nutcracker at the Eagle Theatre in Sugar Hill with Suwanee Ballet Company members. More information [here](#).
11. **Suwanee Public Arts Commission – “Buford Highway Mural”** (\$10,000) – Suwanee will be creating a public art mural on the corner of Buford Highway and Town Center Avenue approximately 180 feet long and 10 feet high! More information [here](#).
12. **The Hudgens Center for Art & Learning – “Healing Arts: Project Welcome Home”** (\$10,000) – Virtual programming for military veterans to build community through the arts and develop coping skills through artistic expression for the many veterans who struggle with PTSD and re-assimilation. More information [here](#).

“2020 has been an especially tough year for our arts partners. The Gwinnett Creativity Fund granted over \$130,000 to local arts non-profits this year through both Operations Grants and Project Grants,” says Anders. “We are thrilled to be able to support their individual missions through our latest project grants.”

More details can be found at GwinnettCreativityFund.com. Photography of grant awardees can be found [here](#).

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Lisa Anders: lisa@exploregwinnett.org 404-849-8996

Haleigh Staalner: haleigh@exploregwinnett.org 678-656-1715

ABOUT EXPLORE GWINNETT

Explore Gwinnett, the marketing brand for the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau (GCVB), is Gwinnett County's official tourism organization and is dedicated to strengthening Gwinnett County's economy by marketing the county as a destination for conventions, sporting events, meetings and leisure travel through sales, marketing and promotion. Explore Gwinnett also houses the Gwinnett Sports Commission, and oversees and administers the Gwinnett Creativity Fund.

ABOUT GWINNETT CREATIVITY FUND

Gwinnett Creativity Fund is a pilot program for arts grants in Gwinnett County. Gwinnett County recognizes the inherent value of the arts to a community's success and seeks to increase the County's profile as a cultural, inclusive destination where the arts educate, elevate, and inspire. This grant program is funded by Gwinnett County and administered by Explore Gwinnett.