

FY26 Project Summaries - Arts & Culture Award Program

ArtsCenter: \$4,836 award recommendation

Award will fund the ArtSchool adult education program at the Seymour Senior Center. This program will offer three distinct art classes led by local artists to approximately nine participants, free of charge. A painting class, a mixed media collage class, and a print making class will be offered over the course of six to seven weeks, with each class lasting two or three hours.

Bridging The Gap: \$9,666 award recommendation

Award will fund the program, *Black Girls Are Beautiful and Dope*, featuring three full-day art and identity workshops designed for eight to ten black girls, held at the Chapel Hill Public Library. Each session will blend visual arts, photography, oral history, natural skincare science, storytelling, and intergenerational engagement. The program will culminate in a portrait exhibit and documentary film screening.

EMPOWERment, Inc.: \$9,666 award recommendation

Award will fund a community-centered mural on the exterior of the Midway Business Center, EMPOWERment Inc.'s historic headquarters for more than 20 years, as well as accompanying community design sessions, artist talk, documentary photo/video series, and an unveiling event. This project will highlight the long and often overlooked history of success and joy in Black Midway and the role EMPOWERment has played since 1996 in preserving affordable housing and economic opportunity for marginalized individuals in Chapel Hill.

Orange County Rape Crisis Center: \$9,666 award recommendation

Award will fund a trauma-informed creative writing program, *Writing as Healing: Community Workshops for Survivors*, designed to support 25-40 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Chapel Hill through guided storytelling, poetry, and reflective writing. The program will provide six to eight writing workshops (poetry, personal narrative, and reflective writing), one community showcase or closing circle (optional and participant-consented), participant writing packets (journals, prompts, and resource guides), and a facilitated discussion with grounding practices embedded in each session.

Prism Design Lab: \$9,666 award recommendation

Award will fund a series of hands-on art workshops led by award-winning sculptor, muralist, and illustrator Dare Coulter to bring the transformative experience of art-making to young people at three Title I Chapel Hill elementary schools: Northside Elementary, Ephesus Elementary, and Frank Porter Graham Elementary. Each visit will include a presentation of Dare's work, an interactive art activity designed for upper-elementary grades, and a collective artwork that remains at each school as a lasting reflection of students' creativity and connection. The project will reach approximately 450 young people across the three schools.