



AthFest Educates

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATHFEST EDUCATES ANNOUNCES EDUCATION GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATORS

Athens nonprofit AthFest Educates announced their annual grants today, awarding \$40,172 to local K-12 educators and youth development specialists. This year's grants included \$23,386 for music and arts programs and experiences for young people and \$17,692 for instruments and equipment. These grants bring the total of AthFest Educates grants awarded to date to over \$464,000.

Jill Helme, Executive Director of AthFest Educates, said, "We are honored to support the creative music and arts educators in our community. It's inspiring to see that even though students are not face-to-face with their teachers, their access and exposure to the arts will not be compromised. We are also thrilled to finally be in a position where we can fund high-school based programming. Our high school music and arts educators are so very talented and it's a privilege to be connected to their work in any way."

The *John & Patricia Whitehead Grant* was awarded to two grantees: Erin Towe to purchase Orff instruments for Barrow Elementary School students and Amanda Price, Meghan McNeeley, and Brian Ash at Clarke Central High School for the creation of a mural that celebrates the historic landmarks, businesses and people in the Clarke Central High School zone. The *Nick and Erin Maulding Grant* was awarded to Debbie Watson at Nuci's Space to expand its Pre-Amped Afterschool Music Program. Melanie Sgrignoli, at Timothy Road Elementary, received a grant for 4th grade students to collaborate with professional artist, Cameron Bliss, on a new portrait mural. This grant was funded in part by the *Stephanie Reavis Memorial Grant*.

The UGA Performing Arts Center received a \$5,000 grant for 5,400 CCSD K-12 students to experience professional dance, theater and musical performances via the UGA PAC's Performances for Young People series. This year's six performances will be performed live at the PAC and students will be able to view the performances via Livestream. The performances will include: The World of Musicals, Momix: Vivamomix (dance company); Ballet Folklorico de Mexico de Amalia Hernandez; Lunasa (Irish acoustic band); Southern Journey: An Afro-Americana Celebration! Featuring Ranky Tanky (music from the South Carolina Gullah culture); and The Kingdom Choir.

AthFest Educates advances high-quality music and arts education for local youth and the Athens community through direct support of school and community-based programs and events, including an annual music and arts festival.



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A \$4,500 grant went to Clarke Central High School to implement a new ceramics unit into its sculpture class, and \$4,000 was awarded to local nonprofit, Heart Music, to deliver instrument-specific small group or one-on-one instruction from professional musicians for 6th – 12th grade students at Hilsman Middle, Coile Middle, Cedar Shoals High and Clarke Central High.

\$3,200 went to the YWCO for thirty-two 3rd grade girls to participate in a week-long Puppetry Arts Project during the YWCO's 2021 Girls Club summer camp. \$4,300 was awarded to the Athens Clarke County Library to purchase instruments, technology and storage needed to offer free, virtual afterschool music programs for young people. The library will offer four one-week "Step Into Music" programs throughout the year for K – 1 students. Each student will check out a personal elementary music kit containing tambourines, beat boxes, triangles, bells, agogos, kokorikos and drums to use at home during their virtual program. The library will also offer four one-week ukulele courses for 2nd and 3rd grade students. Students will check out ukuleles and tuners to use at home for their virtual course. An additional \$7,500 was awarded to Alps Elementary, Barrow Elementary and Barnett Shoals Elementary to purchase musical instruments.

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