



Gaston Arts Council



Arts Impact Report

FY 24/25

The power of the arts.

Looking back on the past year, we are reminded of the arts' power to connect, inspire, and transform. From bringing people together through shared experiences to sparking imagination and growth, the arts continue to shape a brighter future for Gaston County.



Arts Impact Report

September 2025

Dear Friends of the Arts,

This year has been one of renewal and momentum for Gaston Arts Council. As we continue the important work of strengthening our foundation, we are also seeing the powerful results of investing in the arts across our community. With \$114,771 directed into arts programming, we aided twelve organizations in bringing creativity, culture, and connection to people throughout Gaston County.

These programs represent more than performances, exhibitions, or workshops - they represent lives touched, stories shared, and communities strengthened. The arts remind us that creativity is not a luxury, but an essential part of what makes a community thrive.

This year also marked our first ArtsGaston Showcase - an inspiring evening that brought artists, organizations, and supporters together under one roof to celebrate the vibrancy of the arts in Gaston County. It was a powerful reminder of how collaboration and community can elevate the arts, and it highlighted the impact of the grantees whose work we are proud to support.

Like many nonprofits, we faced funding challenges toward the end of our year. Through perseverance, careful planning, and the support of our community, we found the strength to sustain our mission. That resilience reflects what the arts themselves teach us - that creativity, determination, and collaboration can overcome even the most difficult moments.

None of this would be possible without you. The support we receive from our community, along with the steadfast partnership of the *NC Arts Council*, makes it possible for us to extend resources where they are most needed and to ensure the arts remain a vital part of Gaston County's future.

Thank you for believing in the power of the arts, and for standing with us as we continue to build a vibrant, creative county where the arts are accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Steph Newman
Board Chair



Gaston Arts Council



Gaston Arts Council invested

\$114,771

in Grassroots funding for the 24/25 season.

Gaston Arts Council supported

12 arts & culture
organizations

through Grassroots grants
for the 24/25 season.



GRASSROOTS GRANTS

Grant funding provides program expenses for high-merit projects, covering artist fees, travel, space rental, marketing, costumes, and limited operating costs.

Supported Grassroots Partners

Organization	Amount Funded
African American Museum	\$5,259.00
Authentically Healed CDC	\$15,000.00
Friends of the Gaston County Public Library	\$15,612.00
Carolina Pro Musica	\$1,300.00
Carolinas Street Art Collaborative	\$2,000.00
Gaston County Museum of Art & History	\$15,000.00
Gaston County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism	\$4,000.00
Gaston Dance	\$15,000.00
Gaston School of the Arts	\$22,000.00
HELP Carolina	\$15,000.00
Nita's Silent Hands	\$2,000.00
Piedmont Chapter of the Links	\$2,600.00
TOTAL	\$114,771.00



North
Carolina
Arts
Council
www.NCArts.org

*Funding for Grassroots
Grants is made possible
thanks to the North
Carolina Arts Council.*



GRASSROOTS GRANTS



Organization

Project Details

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Brought arts to 4 elementary schools and hosted singer Maria Howell at a middle school. Launched a storytelling club for adults 50+ and joined summer enrichment with the theme Color Our World.

AUTHENTICALLY HEALED, CDC



Hosted a summer arts program where students performed scenes on crime prevention, building interpersonal skills and addressing behavioral challenges, such as bullying, drugs, and violence in the community.

FRIENDS OF THE GASTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presented the Live @ Your Library Family Art Program Series, featuring performing artists bringing joy to families through free public art performances.

CAROLINA PRO MUSICA

A Global Experience showcased music and dance from medieval to 19th century, alongside a songwriting workshop inspired by these works.



CAROLINAS STREET ART COLLABORATIVE

Funds supported Brews and Hues, an arts and music event and three Art and Wellness Workshops combining skill-building with vending opportunities.



GASTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY

Made master-level art workshops accessible, free of charge, to Gaston County teens and adults, enriching their skills and creativity.



GRASSROOTS GRANTS



Organization

Project Details

GASTON COUNTY PARKS, REC, & TOURISM

Supported the Cotton Ginning Days festival, celebrating Gaston County's rich textile history & bringing in 3 bluegrass bands to expand our appreciation for this musical art form.

GASTON DANCE THEATRE

Choreographed & showcased the performance of The Nutcracker to increase accessibility for children in underserved schools, highlighting backstage production & crew.

GASTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

The 'Arts for All' program provided quality art exposure through group art & drama classes, music lessons, and playhouse experiences to underprivileged students.



HELP CAROLINA



Presented 'EbonyFest,' a vibrant Juneteenth Celebration, honoring culture, heritage, and community unity through art and music.

NITA'S SILENT HANDS

Nita's Silent Hands used Grassroots funds to create a documentary series on the deaf and hard of hearing, while teaching NC School for the Deaf students storytelling and videography skills.



PIEDMONT CHAPTER OF THE LINKS

Brought Bright Star Touring Theatre to four Gaston County schools and hosted Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright James Ijames for a community event.





Gaston Arts Council

See the stories behind the impact.

Numbers tell part of the story, but the heart of our work shines through in the people and organizations who bring the arts to life every day. This summer, our talented intern, Evan Daniel, created a series of videos that highlight several of our Grassroots Grantees and the inspiring programs they've brought to our community.

Scan the QR code to visit our YouTube channel and hear directly from the voices behind the art - stories of creativity, connection, and community impact.



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Thank You for believing in the arts.

Your support has helped us grow, reach farther, and dream bigger. Because of you, we see a future where creativity thrives in every corner of Gaston County - sparking curiosity, connection, and joy.

Together, we are supporting more than programs; we are building a movement - a vibrant arts ecosystem that grows stronger each year, touches more lives, and leaves a lasting mark on our community. Each performance, class, exhibit, and creative moment is a reflection of your belief in the power of the arts to inspire, educate, and unite.

Thank you for standing beside us, for championing creativity, and for fueling our journey. With your continued encouragement, we can keep expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and creating opportunities that transform lives. The best is yet to come, and we are so grateful to have you with us every step of the way.

If you would like to help this journey continue, your support - large or small - can spark new programs, elevate more artists, and bring even more creativity to our community.

Join us in shaping the next chapter of Gaston Arts Council's story.

**Scan to
Donate**



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<https://gastonarts.org>



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