

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Oak Park Area Arts Council Announces Recipients of ArtsFunds 2018

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2018 ArtsFunds grant awards. The Arts Council will award \$34,000 to 30 501(c)(3) not for profit organizations for their varied and artful programming. The OPAAC has been awarding grants since 1979. Organizations were announced at the OPAAC Annual meeting held on March 22, 2018 at Pleasant Home.

The following organizations will receive grants this year: 16th Street Theatre, Chicago a cappella, Chicago West Community Music Center, ChoreoSpace, Church of Beethoven, Dominican University Performing Arts Center, Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, Expression Graphics, Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, Handel Week, Heritage Chorale, Illinois Storytelling Inc., Michael Teolis Singers, MOMENTA Performing Arts Center, Oak-Leyden, Oak Park Art League, Oak Park Concert Chorale, Oak Park Education Foundation/Art Start, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Open Door Repertory Company, The Oriana Singers, PING!, Pleasant Home Foundation, Pro Musica Youth Chorus, Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park & River Forest, Steckman Studio of Music, Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest, UCP Seguin, Winifred Haun & Dancers, Wonder Works Children's Museum of Oak Park.

The OPAAC is honored to partner with the Community Bank of Oak Park & River Forest (CBOPRF) for their sponsorship of the Best in Class Awards. This year, the CBOPRF Best in Class Awards were presented to ArtsFunds recipients to recognize their excellent grantmanship and their wonderful work with a category of: *In Their Words: Stories Well Told*. Each organization received a \$1,000 award from the bank. The three organizations selected this year were: Pleasant Home, Pro Musica, and Wonder Works.

2018 ArtsFunds panel members were: William Wallace-*Chair*, OPAAC Board Treasurer; Sarita Connelly, OPAAC Board Member, Michelle Bibbs, Marva Anderson, Meghan Eagan, Deepa Gupta and John Milan.

The Oak Park Area Arts Council (OPAAC) is a not for profit local arts council that is partially funded by grants from the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Village of Oak Park, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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