

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-0142 • Fax: 517-373-3938
E-mail: SenJGleason@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/gleason



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Contact: Sen. John Gleason
Phone: (517) 373-0142

Senator Gleason Announces \$181,500 in Arts and Cultural Grants for Flint Area Organizations

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Awards Funding to Six Local Arts Groups

LANSING—Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing) is proud to announce that the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) has awarded the Flint area with \$181,500 in arts and cultural funding for the 2008 fiscal year. Organizations that received grants include:

- Buckham Fine Arts Project (Flint) -- \$10,900
- Ballet Folklorico Estudiantil (Flint) -- \$7,900
- Flint Cultural Center Corporation -- \$32,400
- Flint Institute of Arts -- \$17,100
- Flint Institute of Music -- \$51,800
- Greater Flint Arts Council -- \$35,400
- Greater Flint Arts Council -- \$14,600
- Greater Flint Arts Council -- \$11,400

Overall, the agency awarded 252 arts and cultural grants in 49 counties, totaling approximately \$7.7 million. Organizations were rigorously evaluated and judged by panels of arts and cultural professionals from throughout the state. The project reviews were based on a set of selective criteria and resulted in recommendations for funding consideration to the council. Projects funded by MCACA must be completed within fiscal year 2008, which began October 1, 2007, and ends September 30, 2008.

“I’m glad that these groups have received not only recognition for their outstanding efforts, but also funding to allow them to continue doing this important work for the betterment of our community,” said Sen. Gleason. “These organizations are doing a tremendous job of preserving our local heritage and expanding the cultural complexion of our great city.”

“The value of, and need for, cultural investment has never been greater. State support for grantees and the public they serve has dropped precipitously from \$27 million in 2001 to \$7.66 million today,” said MCACA Chairman Craig Ruff. “That jeopardizes the quality of life of all state residents. Culture counts—it spurs attraction and retention of talent and private investment. It creates jobs. It excites student achievement. It gives communities and individuals a stronger sense of self-worth.”

A complete list of grant recipients can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/arts>.

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