During times of emergency, we often see people come together or in this instance remain apart to look out for the health and safety of the greater community. With this pandemic, artists are still performing remotely, providing entertainment though isolated, and have curated catalogs of books, videos, music, paintings and more for the world to remain connected. I pray that every professional artist and artist at heart will utilize some of this time to create in a manner that they have never created before. However, the work and the wage of an artist often goes unnoticed. I am so grateful the Greater Columbus Arts Council is an organization that not only recognizes the hard work, long hours and money invested into creating art, but also provides funding because they realize artists aren’t always seen as contributors to society that deserve to be paid for the experience, entertainment, education and enjoyment they provide. If during this time of social isolation; you read a book, listen to music, watch a film, get lost in a painting, please consider the work and the wage of an artist.

~ Stephanie R. Bridges
It’s so disheartening losing my theatre family, my students, my job, and the ability to do what I love in such a short time. I am so grateful for the generosity of donors who have relieved some of the stresses of this crazy time. Thank you!

~ Shauna Davis

The Emergency Relief effort from GCAC is the perfect picture of support for my family. Teaching dance is not only my passion but it was very much supporting income for my family of 4. This pandemic has changed many things for my family. I loss my corporate job at the beginning of this event (which carried medical & dental for the family) then shelter in place began and I loss the ability to make up for my corporate job through performances/teaching. In the matter of 2 weeks I loss all income and medical coverage for my family. This relief will allow us to dedicate money to the start up and purchase of a new medical plan. Which I pray we will not need but understand it is a must have especially during times like this. I am grateful for the Arts Council and their insight to direct grants efforts towards this relief. From my family we say, Thank you.

~ Quianna Simpson

Thank you so much to the Arts Council for everything you do for the arts and artists in Columbus. The support your organization provides for the arts in our community is central to bringing the light we all need to experience from artists of all mediums. I want to specifically thank you for your grant money during this time of hardship. I personally lost numerous art contracts as a direct result of the pandemic. My life partner was also significantly impacted as an employee of the Columbus Metropolitan Library, where 609 employees were furloughed and the remaining staff pay was cut by 10% - 50%. This grant money made a major difference in our ability to cover bills during this crisis and allow me to continue making art for the community.

~ Stephanie Rond
To all those that have donated to the GCAC Relief Grant fund, you are making a huge difference. So many artist, musicians, and performers in our city have lost all sources of income in the blink of an eye. All the shows, exhibits, and venues that they have been putting such hard work towards, have already been cancelled for months to come. These times are so unsure. I am humbled and filled with an incredible gratitude for your support. Art and music help to connect a community, and I’m so proud to live in a city that connects back. Thank you.

~ Rebecca Rea

Like many artists, I’ve spent countless years and hours devoted to my craft, my community, and the arts. In such a short period of time COVID-19 and the global health pandemic has shaken the foundation of so many things I’ve built and hold dear. So much is uncertain and life’s expenses haven’t stopped. Most of us understand how paralyzing this can feel. I believe that the creation of art and the survival of artists is paramount in our experience as humans, especially in difficult times like these. Gerhard Richter once said that, “Art is the highest form of hope.” Creating art has become more difficult facing the weight of basic survival. So much is out of my control, but the funds generously provided by the GCAC emergency relief fund will allow me to cover several living expenses. This allows me to continue doing what I’m most passionate about. Spreading hope in our community through art and creation when we need it most.

~ Katya Philmore

A bleak moment indeed. In a matter of days every stream of income I had ran dry, performances and teaching sessions being cancelled left me in quite the predicament. I thank GCAC for assisting me in this time of turmoil as well as anyone who donated. The contributions are helping those that want to express themselves creatively in a society that needs it.

~ Cazembe Smith
THANK YOU SO MUCH GCAC!
This grant is HUGE help and its funds will allow me to stay afloat while things reopen without having to worry about all the show cancellations.

It’s so encouraging to know the people in the city that I love has stepped up to support and validate the art we create and its importance to the character of the city.

If you are reading this, please consider supporting GCAC so they can help more artists, creators and musicians, so we all can keep filling CBUS with color & melodies straight from the heart. THANK YOU!!!

~ Marco Castro

Thank you so much! I am in awe of the continuous support from the GCAC and the positive impact these funds are having on ARTISTS all over Columbus! This grant will allow me to maintain my current residence, which includes my studio space during this challenging time. I feel so incredibly fortunate to be able to continue producing artwork and am PROUD to be a part of the Columbus arts community.

~ Megs LeVesseur

My GCAC grant will allow me to continue to pay my rent. It will give me the financial stability to allow myself the mental energy to keep pushing through this crazy experience. It will give me time to focus on research, exploration & implementation of new ways to create & sell from isolation - instead of focusing on uncertainty, panic or despair. A massive heartfelt thank you to GCAC & EVERYONE who donated, you made a difference for myself & this community. It means everything.

~ Anonymous

Art Heals and Helps Connect Us All
Like most people, I am sensitive to economic, social and emotional unrest due to this global pandemic. All opportunities to develop and grow my brand are on hold or cancelled but rent and bills are still due. I have been a freelance creative and artist for over 10 years. During this time, this grant will help me get basic supplies and pay rent. I am sincerely grateful for your support.

~ Ludie Senatus

Receiving my “Congratulations” email felt like a dark cloud was lifted off my spirit. Knowing that next month’s rent will be paid is a huge relief. My home is where my creative mind likes to dream + plan. My home is also my safe space during this COVID-19 pandemic and staying home is what I can do to support the people who are still out there working to keep us all safe. This grant makes me feel seen and supported. Thank you GCAC!

~ Megan Leigh Barnard
I am practically in tears right now, after being so anxious and stressed about the loss of income, and worrying about how I was going to be able to keep on top of bills, this is a huge help towards keeping myself afloat. I cannot thank the Arts Council enough for supporting me, and my fellow artists, in this difficult and stressful time. It means so much that this city clearly cares about the art community enough to provide support in such uncertain times. Thank you so much.

~ Maggie C.

Professional artists, such as myself, are largely self-employed and most of us make it without essentials like health insurance and we learn to make a little bit go a long way. There are very few options available to professional artists for emergency assistance and The Greater Columbus Arts Council was there for me and other Columbus artists, in a way that even the largest cities were not, for Columbus' own professional artists. I truly received a lifeline and inspiration to continue thanks to The Greater Columbus Arts Council.

~ Sean Carney

It is a very hard, challenging, and self-disciplined path to be a full-time artist, and a lot of the time it does not feel like the arts community is supported. Art is important to Columbus, Ohio, and thank you for donating and giving to help us thrive and survive during this time. We will get through this hard time, and with your support I am more confident in knowing myself and other artists will make it!

~ Briden Cole Schueren

Being a full time musician was a life goal that I reached in 2019. Before that, every single source of my income was music related though. I felt good knowing that through Live Nation, AEG and PromoWest I could always work at the arenas and music venues in town if I did ever need some work. It felt good knowing that I could compose original music for my growing cliental and continue to expand that business. It felt good knowing that this April began the promotional tour for a film that I composed the score for. I was set, but the rug got pulled out from under me. This grant will help me maintain for the time being. This grant will feed my stepson. This grant will bring a sense of normalcy for the time being.

~ Robert Dawson
I will forever appreciate the support in Ohio for artists. It is truly a blessing to live in such an artistically rich city. These funds will help me continue to support my dream as a full time working artists in these struggling times of social distancing. Thank you so much!

~ Samantha Little

Receiving this emergency grant has been one of the most saving circumstances. It is not everyday you receive a portion of funding that helps you in such a dire time for us all. For me, this grant will help support my housing and studio, while I am able to figure out everything else. I was nearing the absolute of moving out, just so that I could continue projects that were due. But this grant will help stabilize and secure everything as we move into the unknown.

~ Lea Gray

A bleak moment indeed. In a matter of days every stream of income I had ran dry, performances and teaching sessions being cancelled left me in quite the predicament. I thank GCAC for assisting me in this time of turmoil as well as anyone who donated. The contributions are helping those that want to express themselves creatively in a society that needs it.

~ Kashis Kayz

If there is a silver lining, it's that even in the wake of this global pandemic, arts and technology have proven to be curative. It has helped to reinforce the idea of being innovative and adaptable (think of all the DJs spinning music around the world), provide spaces of self-reflection for mental/physical wellness (with online yoga and workout classes) and bring us closer together (via video conferencing apps), even with the mandates on social distancing. I am encouraged that we will get through this, and I can't wait to see what other ideas are created out of this moment in time by other artists in the city and around the world.

~ Kenneth Eaddy

Words can't express how much this means, not only to me, but all the artists and musicians who have received your help through this grant. I am beyond thankful to be living in Columbus right now- this truly shows how strong and supportive our community is during times like this, and I'm honored to call Columbus home.

~ Angela Perley
This GCAC relief grant is a tremendous help in negotiating these wild times, and continuing to create. I feel humbled by the support. I'm eager to get back to performing and sharing what I love. We'll get through this.

~ Zac Little

I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the GCAC COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant for artists! I lost my entire income overnight due to this crisis and with the grant, I am able to breathe an enormous sigh of relief. I won't have to feel stressed about how I'll buy groceries or pay bills. Thank you GCAC!

~ Aaron “Doc” Haye

I am new to this community and I am so very grateful and humbled to being from Columbus, Ohio to be part of a community of people who really care about artists and that their crafts. My inspiration comes through and from many different things and during these stressful times we have to lean on faith to get us through. It is wonderful to have a community that wants to continue to inspire and motivate us to create and not lose hope. Again, I am grateful. There is a saying that states that it takes a village, and that is so very true. Thank you so much GCAC for all that you do and for being that village for us.

~ Tracy Powell

I am completely humble by all of you at GCAC. You guys are amazing! I can’t thank you enough for your continuous support and especially for this grant! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

~ Jurate Phillips

As the sole provider for my family, I cannot thank the Greater Columbus Arts Council enough! At a time of such need, with so many unknowns, it is very humbling to know that the Columbus arts community is doing what it can to take care of each other, and I am proud to be a part of that community. Your generosity is appreciated, and I will be paying it forward, as soon as this outbreak is over and I am able.

~ Anonymous