



THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024
NEWS RELEASE

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AUGUSTA SYMPHONY AWARDED 'BRIDGE GRANT' FROM GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

ATLANTA – July 10, 2024 — The Augusta Symphony was awarded a Bridge Grant from Georgia Council for the Arts, a strategic arm of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, for fiscal year 2025. The Bridge Grant provides funding for operating support to nonprofit arts organizations, many of which were negatively affected by COVID-19. As part of this year's Bridge awards, 204 entities in 44 counties will receive more than \$2.6 million in funding.

"These grant dollars will allow arts organizations in Georgia to focus on their primary mission to bring art and cultural events to their communities by relieving the burden of certain operating expenses," said Georgia Council for the Arts Director Tina Lilly. "Georgia Council for the Arts is excited to help our arts organizations continue to foster economic and cultural vitality in their communities."

Georgia Council for the Arts received applications from arts organizations from across the state, including performing arts centers, museums, galleries, amphitheaters, and music festivals. Bridge Grants are available to arts organizations for eligible operating expenses like rent, utilities, programming expenses, and marketing.

Regarding the Bridge Grant award, Development Director Katherine Bonner said, "We are filled with gratitude for this continued support, which allows us to share the Augusta Symphony's mission 'to share the joy of great musical performance.' The arts are vital for thriving communities and people of all ages, and as the Symphony enters our seventieth year of performance and service, we are excited for the opportunity to both sustain and grow our reach and capabilities."

Funding for these grants is provided through appropriations from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) uses Peer Review Panels to judge and review applications following standard practices set by the National Endowment for the Arts. Panelists are GCA Council members and fellow professionals who are experienced in the arts discipline or type of grant being reviewed, or are citizens with a record of arts activities, experience, and knowledge.

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About Georgia Council for the Arts

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) empowers the arts industry in Georgia and artists around the state to cultivate healthy, vibrant communities that are rich in civic participation, cultural experiences, and economic prosperity. As part of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Council for the Arts provides grant funding, programs, and services statewide that support this vital industry, preserve our cultural heritage, and create increased access to meaningful arts experiences. Visit gaarts.org for more information.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a location for arts, film, and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. Visit georgia.org for more information.



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*The Augusta Symphony Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and is supported in part by an award from the **Georgia Council for the Arts** through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. The Augusta Symphony is also supported in part by the **Columbia County Community and Leisure Services** and by the Greater Augusta Arts Council through appropriations from **Augusta-Richmond County**.*



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