

a quick look at the DANE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

- **Forty-eight percent (\$303,700) of the Cultural Affairs Commission's \$584,000 annual operating budget comes from outside gifts, grants, and earned income.** Since its formation twenty-six years ago, the commission has adopted an entrepreneurial approach to the financing of its programs and services, carefully cultivating private sector donors and building a strong, diversified financial structure unlike any other public arts agency in the United States.
 - **The lion's share of the commission's grants program is endowed by local corporations and foundations:** the Overture Foundation, the Madison Community Foundation, Pleasant Company's Fund for Children, the Evjue Foundation, and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation. Sixty percent (\$270,000) of the \$450,000 grants budget is annually subsidized by these five donors whose contributions are contingent upon Dane County maintaining its own financial commitment at the current level—or better.
 - **Every year the unique mix of private-public grant funds supports approximately 130 programs and helps grantees leverage an additional \$3.4 million from other local sources.** On average, every Dane County grant dollar generates another nineteen matching dollars—a 1:19 ratio—from sources elsewhere in the community for grant-supported activities.
 - **Grants from \$500 to \$10,000 support a wide range of community art and historical activities, reaching an estimated 470,000 residents in virtually every town, village and city of Dane County.** Recipients include such disparate recipients as the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, City of Fitchburg, Bayview Community Center, Madison Symphony Orchestra, Stoughton Opera House, Perry Hauge Log Church Preservation Association, Token Creek Music Festival, Urban League of Greater Madison, Respite Center, Wisconsin Youth Company, Verona Community Theatre, Mazomanie Historical Society, and Middleton-Cross Plains School District.
 - **Commission-produced projects expand the geographical reach of its services.** Perhaps the best known and most beloved commission products are its enormously popular annual art poster and art calendar. Forty municipalities assist in their distribution every year. Other publications include books, directories, and children's posters—directly serving over 25,000 citizens. Continuing contributors to these projects include Alliant Energy, the Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation, and hundreds of individual donors. National sales of *Everybody's Ethnic: A Dane County Alphabet* generate modest royalty revenues to help finance commission products.
 - **The Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission is a solid investment in community life.** It reaches into areas of the county—where need may be greatest—to ensure fuller public access to and participation in cultural and civic activity. It brings support to rural areas which would otherwise remain distanced from the cultural and financial resources of Madison. It promotes the positive aspects of cultural diversity. It helps foster community, neighborhood, and school cohesiveness. It strengthens our local economy. It focuses attention on the needs, interests, and talents of children and youth. It engages thousands of citizens of all ages in creating an environment where dreams are nurtured, minds are challenged, and lives are transformed. As local editors have acknowledged through the years, “the Cultural Affairs Commission is a gem.” “A model agency . . . testimony to the good that public funding for the arts can produce.” “A public investment that has produced a worthwhile return,” “adding immeasurably to the quality of life.” “Talk about piling up good will!” “We’re nuts about the Cultural Affairs Commission!”
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