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Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region awards FAA Duff Green grant of $4,000

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. – Fredericksburg All Ages (FAA) has been awarded a 2015 grant from the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund. The Community Foundation of Rappahannock River Region, which administers the grant fund, presented a check for $4,000 to FAA after reviewing the youth-oriented music and arts organization’s mission, goals and objectives. FAA is using this grant to fund a part-time, paid outreach coordinator position for their digital arts and media lab, Studio 15. The position has been filled by Kana Zink, a longtime FAA volunteer, support, and Board Certified Music Therapist with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

The goals of the position are to raise awareness about Studio 15 among local schools, teachers and other youth-serving nonprofits and to create channels for collaboration and referrals. Housed in downtown Fredericksburg’s renowned arts center, LibertyTown Arts Workshop, Studio 15 provides cutting-edge digital tools and classes for local youth to foster personal and artistic expression through the use of emerging digital technologies, media arts and the craft of storytelling. FAA is committed to ensuring that Studio 15 is an affordable resource for all youth who are interested in pursuing digital arts, regardless of one’s socioeconomic status. For the next 12 months, Ms. Zink will be meeting with local art teachers, school administrators and forging relationships with other local nonprofits. By connecting with schools and other nonprofits, she hopes that adults in the community will refer students to Studio 15 who are passionate about graphic design, photography and filmmaking.

“Creative arts should not be limited to students of families with the financial capacity to buy the standard, and often expensive, equipment needed to create. We are hopeful to create a sustainable relationship with the community, as well as provide an effective scholarship program so all students will have the opportunity to participate and gain new skills,” said Kana Zink, Studio 15 Outreach Coordinator.

Any student, teacher, parent or community leader interested in learning more about Studio 15 and speaking with Kana are encouraged to contact her at: kzink@fredericksburgallages.com

The Outreach Coordinator will greatly enhance FAA’s organizational capacity and ability to connect with the larger Fredericksburg community. The position will be the second paid position associated with FAA and will be administered through the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth (RAOOY).

For over eight years, FAA has fostered a unique blend of youth leadership opportunities and participatory live music culture and volunteerism. The success of FAA in empowering youth leaders while providing safe, affordable and drug/alcohol-free outlets for youth-relevant entertainment has been noted by RAOOY as a model example of positive youth development. By partnering with FAA, RAOOY will enhance FAA’s work by providing in-kind fiscal and administrative support for the new position.

“The Office on Youth is proud to be partnering with and supporting such an incredible group of individuals as FAA to implement this grant. FAA truly incorporates a youth development model for prevention that goes far beyond any other agency in the area,” said Ben Nagle, the Executive Director of the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth. “Youth are excited to be involved and work to lead the FAA efforts at all levels. It’s an amazing organization and we are glad to be working together.”

**About Fredericksburg All Ages**

Fredericksburg All Ages is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to youth empowerment, youth leadership and affordable music and arts programming. Youth are involved at every level of FAA’s decision making and leadership and even serve on FAA’s Board of Directors. More information can be found at: www.fredericksburgallages.com

**About the Rappahannock Area Office on Youth**

The vision of RAOOY is to improve the community by enhancing the lives of youth and their families. We carry that our through our mission, which is to decrease juvenile delinquency by promoting and providing opportunities for positive development to at-risk and court-involved youth and their families. More information can be found at: http://www.officeonyouth.org/

**About the Duff McDuff Green, Jr. Fund**

Mr. Duff McDuff Green, Jr.’s bequest established a grant fund at the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region in April 2010. Because he cared about preserving land and historic treasures and in creating healthy outdoor experiences for children, the grants made through the fund reflect these values. Founded in 1998, the Community Foundation works regionally to bring donors together and build perpetual resources that make our communities exceptional places to live. The foundation offers numerous charitable opportunities for individual and corporate donors and administers a range of giving programs including grants and scholarships. Philanthropy is concentrated in the counties of Caroline, King George, Stafford and Spotsylvania and in the City of Fredericksburg. Further information about the foundation’s services can be found on its website at www.cfrrr.org.

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