

CAP GRANTS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Proud as I am of all of our programs, CAP's greatest community impact comes through the six grant programs that we administer each year. An excellent example is our NYSCA funded Grants for Arts (GAP) program. One of this year's GAP recipients is Ithaca's Civic Ensemble. The Civic Ensemble creates theatre productions that explore the social, political, and cultural issues of our time, bringing together audiences of different races, classes, and life experiences. These are community-based plays developed and performed by community members. Our GAP grant funded their Loneliness Project and their story is shared below.

— JOHN SPENCE, Executive Director

GRANTEE FOCUS

ITHACA CIVIC ENSEMBLE



Through the support of Community Arts Partnership's GAP grant Ithaca's Civic Ensemble, a local theater company, delivered *The Loneliness Project*, developed in March and April of 2018, consisting of a play coupled with a series of workshops that illuminated some of the adversity the LGBTQ+ community experiences.

Caitlin Kane, the artistic producer, offered insight on the development of the project as it had many moving parts, a history grounded in thorough research, and continuous revising. The project's origins were initially shaped by Catlin and a team of artists' research on Chicago's LGBTQ+ population in 2012 where it was

revealed that loneliness was a salient issue. With this information, she says, "We knew we were interested in this concept of loneliness, youth, and seniors. What then, could we do with that?"

From there, she and her team dove deeper by interviewing more young people, seniors, and people who worked directly with those communities. The first script of *The Loneliness Project* was crafted and delivered in Chicago. While the play was well received, it still was not complete in the team's eyes. The story they were hoping to tell had not quite emerged and Kane continued to ask: "Have we figured out who we really want to deal with, or where we are headed? I think that's going to be an ongoing question because we're sort of in a moment of change." The Ithaca phase of *The Loneliness Project* started with workshops and culminated in an updated play.

The *Loneliness Project*'s intention is to create space for conversation in Ithaca's community in compelling ways. "It's exciting for us," Kane says, "Civic hasn't done a lot of LGBTQ+ work, so I think they're excited to be connecting with those populations. Ithaca is such a LGBTQ+ friendly town, but it's not a place where there are a lot of gatherings so we're creating that space for a while." The play and workshops in tandem lend themselves to stimulating important, intergenerational dialogue, and gaining new understanding throughout the process. With the support of the Community Arts Partnership's GAP grant, *The Loneliness Project* can wholeheartedly invest in this ongoing discovery of stories that need to be shared.

Catlin was pleased to report, "The *Loneliness Project* culminated in three sold-out performances at Cornell's Schwartz Center and one at the History Center in Tompkins County. The performances showcased an hour and fifteen minutes of brand new material developed by a team of 11 Ithaca-based actors working with the core artistic team from Chicago. The Civic Ensemble and the *Loneliness Project* team are looking toward next steps, including future workshops and productions of the piece in Chicago and beyond. We would like to thank CAP and all of their other supporters for making this iteration of the project possible."

Our *Grants for Arts Programs* will soon be renamed *Community Arts Grants*, to more accurately describe the mission of this grant as funded by the New York State Council on the Arts.

CAP BY THE NUMBERS



MAY 3 - 6, 2018

OUR 9TH ANNUAL
SPRING WRITES
LITERARY FESTIVAL
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135 ARTISTS

1,100 ATTENDEES

47 EVENTS

10 LOCATIONS



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info at
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Joni Poulain Photography

NEWS-CAP
SUMMER 2018

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FOR OVER 25 YEARS.



CAP EVENTS AND DEADLINES

See ArtsPartner.org for all information!

JUNE

- 6/1-29** Juried Group Exhibit
- 6/8** Gallery Night Opening, CAP ArtSpace
- 6/2** First Saturday on The Art Trail
- 6/6** Art//Reaction Creative Writing Workshop

JULY

- 7/6-7/30** Nancy Ridenour & Paula Bensadoun,
Painting and Photography, CAP ArtSpace
- 7/6** Gallery Night Opening, CAP ArtSpace
- 7/7** First Saturday on The Art Trail
- 7/27** ITHACA ARTIST MARKET, 12-7pm

AUGUST

- 8/3-30** Torie Tiffany: Digital Photos,
CAP ArtSpace
- 8/3** Gallery Night Opening, CAP ArtSpace
- 8/4** First Saturday on the Art Trail



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