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Calhoun County Groups Receive Major Art Grants

Sept. 15, 2000 – Nearly $228,000 in grants to assist five Calhoun County agencies were announced today by State Senator John J.H. Schwarz, M.D., R-Battle Creek. The money will be used to support programs for children, museum exhibitions, performances and for minigrants to smaller agencies.

"The arts and entertainment are an important part of enhancing the cultural understanding of our young people and our community," Schwarz said. "The groups receiving this money have a fine tradition of promoting quality entertainment in our area and these grants represent the state's recognition of their successful efforts."

The Music Center of South Central Michigan, located in Battle Creek, is receiving $69,800 to produce and present a series of 12 concerts and related education and outreach activities involving the Music Center's five performance programs.

The City of Albion is receiving $40,500 to help renovate the J.C. Penney Building to house Kids 'n' Stuff: An Interactive Experience for Kids. The renovations include installation of two accessible bathrooms, a wheelchair ramp, Internet access wiring, new carpeting and minor cosmetic work.

The Brass Band of Battle Creek is receiving $23,100 to present a five concert Michigan tour

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with performances in Battle Creek, Interlochen, Lansing, Ann Arbor and one other site. The project also includes four in-school classes.

The United Arts Council of Calhoun County is receiving a total of three grants. The first is $21,000 to provide six, nine week cultural thematic arts education programs for in school and after school activities benefitting 20,000 students. The agency will receive $56,000 to provide minigrants of up to $4,000 to eligible Michigan nonprofit applicants in Regional Regranting Region 16. They also will receive $11,200 to act as contact agent and facilitator of Regional Regranting Region 16, which includes several counties.

The Art Center of Battle Creek is receiving $6,300 to develop and install the exhibition, "Our Place: Landscape & Land Use" to be shown at the Art Center. The program includes educational activities for children, gallery tours and lectures.

The money being awarded comes from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. The $227,900 total awarded represents a nearly 391 percent increase over last year's $58,300 total.

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