

# JCS ARTS, HEALTH & EDUCATION FUND

## ANNUAL REPORT



# FY2020



ARTS, HEALTH  
& EDUCATION

DuPage  
Foundation **DF**  
Doing a world of good in our own backyard™

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The 2019-2020 fiscal year demonstrated the need and the impact of the JCS Fund like never before. Despite the devastating effects of COVID-19, JCS Fund support made an enormous difference in the lives of many. Grants supporting health and wellness programs were particularly critical during the pandemic and JCS Fund arts initiatives enabled residents to use visual art and music to experience joy and normalcy even during COVID-19.



## General Grants

Through its Community Needs grant program, DuPage Foundation regularly shares grant applications with donor-advisors to increase its support for local programs. In response, the JCS Fund recommended grants for projects that expand outreach and education for residents of all ages—from infants to seniors.

### Addison Center for the Arts

To support Arts Alive: An After-School Art Program, consisting of creative writing, music, theater and visual arts, for students at Indian Trail Junior High and St. Philip the Apostle schools.

### Chicago Sinfonietta

To present a five-concert subscription season at Wentz Concert Hall and other community engagements in DuPage County.

### ClaySpace Ceramic Arts Center

To renovate a restroom to be ADA compliant ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in programs.

### Covenant Living at Windsor Park

To support concerts presented by the Kairos Quartet for senior residents at Windsor Park.

### Elmhurst Art Museum

To support the revitalization of the Education Center enabling the museum to increase the capacity for patron use.

### Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra Association

To support the writing and performance of an original piece of chamber music about monarch butterflies as a way of reaching a broader audience through nature-themed music.

### Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center

To support the academic achievement of low-income K-8 students through after-school and summer enrichment programming.

### Music Institute of Chicago

To conduct six sessions of Musikgarten, an educational program that helps infants, toddlers, and children develop a deep love of music and the ability to express it.



A JCS Fund general grant was given to College of DuPage Foundation to sponsor the Frida Kahlo Exhibition, now planned for summer 2021.

**About the cover:** The cover photos represent education (the big blue circle is from the Mindfulness Mural at North School in Villa Park which came about due to a JCS Fund mini-grant), health (the image in the upper orange circle is from UCP Seguin which offers residential, emotional and educational support for people with specific health needs due to living with cerebral palsy) and the arts (the bottom orange circle depicts students participating in the Young People's Music Initiative).

# MUSIC PROGRAMS

**“Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them—a world of work, culture, intellectual activity and human involvement.”**

— Gerald Ford

## Young People’s Music Initiative (YPMI)

Over the past seven years, thousands of children from DuPage County schools have benefitted from general and instrumental music programs funded through the Young People’s Music Initiative (YPMI). Each year, new schools are invited to apply for funds to support the purchase of instruments, master classes, and unique or creative music programs. Once a school or district begins participation in the program, it is eligible to apply for funding over the subsequent six-year period.

The following schools and districts received YPMI grants during the 2019-2020 school year:



**13,585** DuPage area students  
were impacted

- Addison Elementary Schools
- Addison Trail High School
- Bensenville Elementary Schools
- Blackhawk Middle School
- Community Consolidated District 180
- Community Consolidated District 89
- Edison Middle School
- Fenton High School
- Glenbard East High School
- Glenbard South High School
- Glenbard West High School
- Glenn Westlake Middle School
- Hadley Junior High School
- Hubble Middle School
- Indian Trail Junior High School
- Jackson Middle School
- Jefferson Middle School
- Lombard Elementary Schools
- Marquardt School District 15
- Monroe Middle School
- Queen Bee School District 16
- Salt Creek District 48
- Villa Park Elementary Schools
- West Chicago Community High School
- Wheaton North High School
- Willowbrook High School
- Wood Dale Elementary Schools
- Wood Dale Junior High School



## Chicago Sinfonietta

A JCS Fund grant awarded to the Chicago Sinfonietta provided education programs and connected professional musicians with students at Jefferson Middle School in Villa Park, Blackhawk Middle School in Bensenville and Burr Ridge Middle School. A substantial portion of the orchestra members are minorities mirroring the demographic of the students in each of these schools which helped them to envision the possibility of playing in a professional orchestra. Through mentorship and master classes, the program enriched the musical experience for participating kids.



## Glenbard North

Glenbard North, unlike other District 87 high schools, has never had an orchestra. The reason was that North's principal feeder district, Carol Stream Elementary District 93, had no string program. Several years ago, JCS provided funds to begin a District 93 string program. The program has been a great success and in 2020-21 the first middle school graduates will attend North. During the 2019-20 school year, JCS made a significant grant to North that provided the string instruments and supplies for the first Glenbard North Orchestra beginning with the 2020-21 school year. Scott Grigoletto, who will be North's principal string instructor says he is "thrilled" to begin the orchestra.

## Wheaton College Artist Series

Grant funding from the JCS Fund enabled the Wheaton College Artist Series to present internationally-acclaimed artists as part of their Heighten Artist Prestige initiative. One of the programs was

Lux Aeterna composed by Morton Lauridsen. The composer spent a week on the Wheaton College campus working with Wheaton College students and called the experience a highlight of his career.

## Community School of the Arts

The JCS Fund provided a grant for the Community Outreach for Developing Artists (CODA) program in which approximately 1,000 underserved children will benefit from no-cost music instruction.

CODA classes in Early Childhood Music, Suzuki Violin and Suzuki Recorder provide a window of opportunity for children to experience the arts and become more culturally aware.



## Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA)

JCS Fund has provided annual grants for the CSOA Western Suburbs Initiative to support their concerts at Wheaton College as well as education and community engagement activities in DuPage County. Ongoing support for this initiative has helped the CSOA build a strong foundation for long-term partnerships with DuPage organizations, academic institutions, schools and residents.

While the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of one concert and some of the education activities during the spring, 3,800 local patrons still enjoyed the opportunity to experience one of the world's leading orchestras in concert at a venue close to home.

Todd Rosenberg Photography



**3,800** patrons  
viewed CSOA locally

Todd Rosenberg Photography



# HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

**“Exercise is king. Nutrition is queen. Put them together and you’ve got a kingdom.”**

— Jack Lalanne, American Fitness and Nutrition Guru

With an interest in providing opportunities to promote healthy eating and/or increase physical activity for special populations, the JCS Fund provided Healthy Lifestyle grants to support the following:

## Jefferson PTA

The JCS Fund provided a grant to the Jefferson Early Childhood Center PTA toward the construction of a new playground at the school in Wheaton. The universal playground that will adjoin the newly rebuilt early childhood center will create opportunities for social connections, sensory stimulation, physical exercise and access to nature for children of all abilities and needs.

## The GardenWorks Project

A second-year grant was awarded to support expenses related to the Home Gardening Program which fosters health and wellness by promoting vegetable consumption through home gardening. The program provides families who have limited access to resources with a 4' x 8' raised bed garden, gardening tools, seeds and ongoing coaching to ensure a successful first harvest. In addition to providing access to fresh produce, the program is a training ground for educational opportunities that encourage health promotion and self-sufficiency.



## UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago

As a result of the success achieved through the first-year pilot for Project FUN, a second-year grant was awarded to expand the healthy eating and exercise program for individuals with disabilities living in the organization's 71 group homes. Funding specifically supports the compensation of the professional trainer and nutritionist leading the program, cooking supplies to support healthy eating education and equipment to facilitate exercise in the homes.

The metrics for the 41 residents participating in year one of Project FUN were very positive with 71% decreasing weight, 61% increasing muscle mass and 66% decreasing Body Mass Index.

## Northwestern Medicine

A second-year grant from the JCS Fund continues to support Northwestern Medicine's HomeCare Physicians (HCP) program. Through HCP, a team of doctors and nurse practitioners made 3,927 visits to 800 homebound patients from June 2019 through March 2020. Of those, 172 were "new patient" visits.

Funding was also instrumental in establishing the "House Call Ride-Along and Office Observation" initiative, a combination of classroom workshops and online courses with home visits and in-person training for future home healthcare providers.



**800** homebound patients received **3,927** visits



# VISUAL ARTS

**“Don’t think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it’s good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art.”**

— Andy Warhol

## Visual Arts and Music Mini-Grants

JCS Fund mini-grants support visual arts projects related to drawing or painting; general music programs that benefit preschool and elementary students; and instrumental music programs that benefit senior citizens. The following organizations received mini-grants:

### Adult Christian Care

To support an art program in the adult day care setting to provide clients with Alzheimer's/dementia opportunities to express thoughts, emotions and share memories.

### Bloomington Public Library

To support Through Our Eyes, a program that provides individuals of different age groups the experience of interpreting literature pieces using each of their unique talents and life experiences.

### Burning Bush Art Gallery

To support the creation of an Interactive Art mural at Wheaton's Festival of Cultures event.

### Immigrant Solidarity DuPage

To support the design, purchase of materials and construction of ofrendas for the Wheaton Day of the Dead Frida Extravaganza.

### Puppy Rescue 911

To paint a mural and host an adoption event in which families paint dog bandanas and draw attention to animal rescue in a fun and engaging manner.

### Riverwalk Adult Day Services

To support the Group Art Program that fosters and maintains cognitive skills of the mentally and physically challenged adult population at the adult day care center.

### Snow City Arts

To showcase and celebrate artwork created by SCA students from Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital.



### The Center for Gifted

To support a one-day workshop during school holidays to give students an in-depth learning experience with talented mentors.

### The Community House

To support the Public Arts Exhibitions that feature five DuPage County-based artists making their works accessible to the community.

### Tri-Town YMCA

To provide children, especially those with limited access to resources, the opportunity to explore a mindful journey with a mural created through community collaboration.

### Wayne Township Pantry and Senior Services

To supplement the cost of creativity/art classes for seniors on a fixed income.

### YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

To support a mural project and art celebration in the Willowbrook Corner community.

# ARTS ADVOCACY



Multi-year funding from the JCS Fund enabled Arts DuPage to jump into FY20 powered by the success of the previous year. Community members embraced artsdupage.org and consistently used it as the ultimate guide for arts and culture in DuPage County. By the end of February, eight months after the start of the fiscal year, the site had seen 44,152 site users, a measure that came remarkably close to the number of site users for all of FY19. Artist engagement also grew by 20% during that time-period, an indication that the arts sector saw the value in promoting their events through Arts DuPage's online portal.

44,152  
site users



October 2019 witnessed a successful Arts DuPage Month, beginning with a kick-off celebration that brought nationally recognized arts advocate Randy Cohen to the region. His powerful message resonated with audiences that attended any of four separate presentations throughout the day. Each session targeted a specific group including the DuPage County Board of Trustees, arts organizers, local arts supporters and donors. The activities culminated in a lively reception for arts lovers and leaders at the McAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage.

20%  
artist  
engagement  
increase



Arts DuPage continued its ongoing efforts to forge connections between artists, venues, organizations, and the community. During the first six months of FY20, Arts DuPage fostered 42 introductions, collaborations, and relationships that resulted in events and opportunities that otherwise would not have come to fruition.

**Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic wielded a devastating blow to the arts sector. With theaters shuttered, galleries closed and performances canceled, artists and arts leaders found themselves facing financial ruin.**

***Arts DuPage became a pipeline of support by disseminating ongoing communications regarding funding opportunities and advocacy support that resulted in multiple arts organizations and artists receiving grant support.***

A fostering  
of 42  
events



For example, Bernard Kleina, an 84-year-old Civil Rights photographer with 30 photographs in the Smithsonian Museum, was unable to pay his rent due to COVID-19 and expressed his appreciation, "Arts DuPage informed me of the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund" program. It also provided me with invaluable guidance and direction. Thanks to Arts DuPage, I will be receiving a check covering more than two months' rent."

## A PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC TV

The JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of DuPage Foundation expanded its reach through a partnership with WTTW. A generous grant awarded to the public broadcasting giant endowed a new staff position, allowing WTTW to hire its first JCS Fund of DuPage Foundation Arts Correspondent. **After a national search, Angel Idowu joined the Chicago Tonight team in July 2019.**

*Over the past year, Angel contributed more than 60 stories that cover the region's rich and diverse arts community. Her segments showcased the activities and individuals who contributed to Chicago's cultural heritage and promoted appreciation of the diverse cultural output across Chicago's many communities, thus providing viewers with a new sense of awareness and avenues for exploration.*

Since July 2019, more than 1.6 million people turned to Chicago Tonight for the latest on topics like local news, education, technology and arts and culture. In addition, WTTW News website received nearly 475,000 views and 80,000 video streams from the growing digital audience.

Recognition of the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation was included on Chicago Tonight and in WTTW's arts programming. In addition to inclusion tied to Angel's reporting, the JCS Fund's generous support was celebrated 66 times as of July 2020 around such programs as *Great Performances: An Intimate Evening with David Foster*, *Rick Steves' Europe* and *Sherlock*.





**1.6** million people turned to Chicago Tonight for the latest on topics like local news, education, technology and arts and culture.



**Angel Idowu**

The JCS Arts, Health & Education Fund of DuPage Foundation Arts Correspondent

“To say I am excited to return to my hometown to cover the arts world is an understatement,” said Angel Idowu. “I spent my childhood immersed in all Chicago’s arts scene has to offer, whether it be dancing at the Joffrey Ballet, musical theater at Mother McAuley, or writing for the *Chicago Tribune’s* ‘The Mash.’ In between assignments and rehearsals, I spent all the time I could exploring Chicago’s hidden treasures.”

# JCS Arts, Health & Education Fund Mission



To support instrumental music, cultural, health, educational, artistic, and other charitable organizations serving the needs of residents of DuPage County, Illinois.

The JCS Fund is particularly interested in programs that provide long-term benefits.

The Fund has the discretion to support charitable organizations serving other communities if it determines that the goals of those organizations are consistent with its charitable interests.



Special thanks to DuPage Foundation staff members Laura Ernst, Barb Szczepaniak and Debbie Venezia for their support of our grantmaking and community engagement efforts throughout the year and to Ginger Wheeler and Paul Abel for producing this annual report of our activities.

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