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City of Parsons receives grant for Hangar Drape and Cyclorama Project

NASHVILLE — The City of Parsons, along with 12 other recipients that include nonprofit organizations, cities and local governments, has been awarded a FY 2017 Creative Placemaking grant distributed by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

The City of Parsons will use the \$6,800 award for the Hangar Drape and Cyclorama Project.

The City of Parsons, in partnership with the Rivertime Players, the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce, the University of Tennessee at Martin and others, plans to transform a once-vacant airplane hangar into a community theater space. The city will purchase and install a grand drape and cyclorama in the theatre. The new facility will allow the Rivertime Players to expand their season, including their yearly children's theater activities.

"I am very happy to see this investment in the hangar, which will make it a key cultural asset for the community," said Senator Dolores Gresham. "The project has broad support of community partners and the multifunctional usability of the space will offer many opportunities for revenue-driven activities, as well as a home for the Rivertime Players."

The Creative Placemaking grants competition was designed to help build stronger communities through the arts to enhance the distinctive character of local Tennessee places for positive economic and community outcomes. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business visibility and public safety, increases tourism and brings diverse people together to build shared understanding of culture and community.

"This new theater space will be very important to our local infrastructure and to Tennessee," said Representative Steve McDaniel. "The theater will be a wonderful opportunity for increased arts education, providing a place to students to learn about the performing arts."

In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of their neighborhood, town, city or region around arts and cultural activities or assets.

“These investments support local efforts to enhance quality of life, increase economic and creative activity, and help create and expand a distinct sense of place through the arts,” said Anne B. Pope, Executive Director for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

The Commission’s allocation process involved a review by an independent panel that included national experts on creative placemaking and local leaders. The panel met on May 26, 2016 to evaluate all eligible applications based on published criteria. All grant applications were evaluated on a competitive basis, taking into account the project type, geographic location and whether the project was in a rural or urban community.

With the mission to cultivate the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities, the Commission funds a variety of arts projects through several grant categories. Each year, these grants help fund arts and cultural activities for more than 600 schools, local governments and nonprofit organizations in communities across all 95 counties. Visit tnartscommission.org for more information.

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