

2016/2017

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Monday, October 10, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

On behalf of the Artisphere board, staff, artists, and patrons that attend the festival, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the arts in S.C. It is my pleasure to inform you that we have received a grant of \$21,159 from the South Carolina Arts Commission for the 2017 festival. The General Operations support grant will allow us to make the arts accessible to all Greenville residents and visitors from across the region, as well as showcase our local cultural offerings.

In 2016 the S.C. Arts Commission grant helped us leverage more than \$455,000 from corporations and granting institutions such as The City of Greenville, Greenville County, The Graham Foundation, TD Bank, GE Energy, and Michelin, just to name a few. Our 2017 grant will again be reinvested in our local and state economy by underwriting the cost to promote the festival.

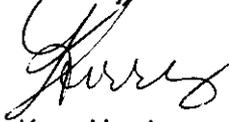
Due to SCAC's support, *Artisphere* has grown into one of the country's top art shows in just twelve short years: six times ranked a Top 10 Fine Arts Festival by Greg Lawler's Art Fair Sourcebook and six times ranked in Sunshine Artists magazine's 100 Best Fine Art Shows by the magazine's readership. Additionally, the festival has been recognized seven times as a Top 20 Event in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society.

In 2016, an estimated 90,000+ (up from 84,609 in 2015) patrons attended *Artisphere*, spent approximately \$1.1 million purchasing original works of art from participating artists, and made a more than \$6.4 million economic impact on our community.

Over the past twelve years, *Artisphere* has evolved into a mainstay of Greenville's dynamic cultural and civic life. It is critical that we continue to receive this annual grant from SCAC. With continued support, we can maintain the festival's ability to produce a family-friendly, engaging weekend of dynamic outdoor exhibits, art sales, concerts, and other special events highlighting. These facets of *Artisphere* culminate to highlight our community as one that celebrates and values the impact of arts and culture on our quality of life, tourism, and economic development.

We invite you to attend the 2017 festival, scheduled May 12-14, so you can witness firsthand how your generous support helps make this event possible. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Kerry Murphy
Executive Director

Greenville Arts Festival D/B/A Artisphere is a 501 (c) (3) Not for Profit Organization.
Artisphere Tax ID# 58-2676608. For more information, visit www.artisphere.us



