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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: March 21, 2019

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**Liberty Arts Commission awards \$6,000 in grants**

**LIBERTY, Mo.** – The Liberty Arts Commission awarded the 2019 \$5,000 Annual Grant and the year's first \$1,000 Mini Grant at its March 14 meeting.

The \$5,000 grant, which is a matching grant awarded to programs or events that support the arts and tourism in Liberty, was awarded to the Midnight Blue Jazz. With the grant, Midnight Blue Jazz will bring a two-part jazz “edutainment” experience to Liberty.

The event entitled *Kansas City & All That's Jazz: Bringing Legends to Life* will include a traveling exhibition highlighting 16 of Kansas City's most respected jazz pioneers with a native or historical connection to the city's significant jazz heritage.

“The *Kansas City Jazz Legacy* exhibition provides a fitting introduction and educational opportunity to jazz laypersons and aficionados alike,” said Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC President/ CEO Greg Carroll. “This one-of-a-kind exhibition pays tribute to arguably Kansas City's most significant jazz pioneers including the likes of Charles “Yardbird” Parker, Mary Lou Williams, Benny Moten, William “Count” Basie, Coleman Hawkins, Jay “Hootie” McShann, Ben Webster, Julia Lee, Pete Johnson, “Big” Joe Turner, Oliver Todd, Ben Kynard, Walter Page, Claude “Fiddler” Williams, Ahmed Alaadeen, and Luqman Hamza.” Installation sites and run dates of the exhibition are currently being finalized with city officials and will be announced in the coming weeks. The exhibition will be free and open to the public to enjoy.

(more)

For the second part of the edutainment experience, Midnight Blue Jazz will produce a multi-media performance showcase in August featuring the celebrated Kansas City bands the Midnight Blue Jazz Quartet and Vine Street Rumble Jazz Orchestra. This highly interactive and “edutaining” performance will include narration supported by multi-media images and historic video clips, along with newly arranged compositions and transcription performances of songs representing the artists highlighted in the *Kansas City Jazz Legacy* exhibition – thus *Bringing Legends to Life*. The performance will take the audience on a unique Kansas City jazz journey highlighting the music’s fantastic narrative and evolution through time beginning with the jazz age through modern-day.

The Liberty Arts Commission also awarded a \$1,000 Mini Grant to the Liberty High School Band to bring in teaching artist Patrick Forrester from End of 80 Visual Design to work with students in the LHS Marching Band. The End of 80 program teaches students how to perform marching fundamentals and use effective visual techniques at a competitive level. Forrester has more than a decade of experience as a performer, teacher and designer in the pageantry arts. Currently, he serves on the Visual faculty for Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps and is the Director of Bands at Bryan County High School. Forrester also has experience being on staff for the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps.

“We are so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to our students and are grateful to the Liberty Arts Council for their generous support. It is wonderful to see members of our community investing in our students.” Brittany True and Eddie Owen, Liberty High School Band instructors

Coordinated through the [Liberty Arts Commission](#), the Liberty Art Grants Program is part of a grant program funded through the Transient Guest Tax, which is designed to support art related programs and events that draw tourism to Liberty.

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