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For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787



**2009 GRANTS AWARDED FOR COMMUNITY "GRASSROOTS" ARTS PROJECTS
in Douglas, Paulding, Carroll, Haralson & Cobb Counties**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to announce that the first round of 2009 Grassroots Arts Program grants have been awarded in five of the ten counties in its administrative district, where \$54,687 has been allocated by the State legislature in support of local art initiatives. Grant awards were determined by two advisory panels which met in Cobb County, overseen by Elizabeth Whitlock Weaver, Division Director of the Cobb County Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, and in Carroll County, directed by Deloris B Covell, Assistant Director of the Carrollton Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

The advisory panels, composed of local leaders and citizens involved in cultural activities in their communities, awarded a total of \$18,353 to ten organizations in Cobb County, \$5,040 to four Carroll County groups, \$5,175 to four Douglas County organizations, \$3,325 to two groups in Paulding County, and one grant of \$2,000 to one organization in Haralson County. The remaining county allocations -- \$1,343 to Haralson County, \$1,561 to Paulding County, and \$1,033 to Cobb – will be distributed during the second round of grant-making before the end of January 2009, along with Grassroots Arts Program funding for projects in Heard, Meriwether, Pike, Troup, and Upson Counties, allocated a total of state support in \$16,858.

This year Grassroots Arts Grants in Cobb County include: \$1,993 to the Cobb County Community Services Board for an arts education initiative focusing on photography; \$2,000 to the Cobb Symphony Orchestra for a workshop for gifted high school students; \$2,000 to the Curtain Call Youth Players for a touring production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live Junior"; \$2,000 to Devereux Georgia Treatment for an after school arts program for children with special needs; \$860 to McClure Middle School for "Manga Mania," a comic book illustration workshop for underprivileged children; \$2,000 to the Mountain View Arts Alliance for a fashion design initiative targeting young women's self-image; \$2,000 to the South Cobb Arts Alliance for "Living Images," an after school program focusing on the work of Georgia folk artist Mattie Lou O'Kelley; \$1,500 to the Children's Bilingual Theatre for a play dealing with immigration issues, "Esperanza Rising"; \$2,000 to the new Strand Theatre for a student works theater festival; and \$2,000 to Friends of East Cobb Park for a children's art project, "Artscape."

Awarded Grassroots Arts Grants in Carroll County this year are: \$1,000 to the Carrollton Housing Authority to create community-based outdoor sculpture at a public housing project for seniors; \$2,000 to Tanner Medical Foundation for a music therapy program, "Harmony for Healing;" \$1,540 to Moore's Chapel Methodist Church for bell choir performances for underserved populations; and \$500 to the Friends of MacIntosh Preserve for a mosaic project where trees in the preserve will be identified on ceramic leaves.

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The four GAP awards in Douglas County for 2009 include: \$1,000 to Asa Music Productions in support of 15 public performances of the Westside Winds; \$2,000 to Higher Ground Christian Center for the creation of two murals during weekly afterschool arts workshops; \$1,175 to Inner Harbour for Children and Families in support of the African drum corps performances; and \$1,000 to the Douglas County Boys and Girls Club for “Africa Through Our Eyes,” a multidisciplinary arts exploration based on African cultures and history.

The two grants awarded in Paulding County are: \$1,325 to Hiram High School in support of its Diversity Club’s festival showcasing storyteller Bobby Norfolk this spring; and \$2,000 to the Hiram Rosenwald Museum for a presentation of Mike Glenn’s collection of African American memorabilia. The sole grant awarded in Haralson County to date is \$2,000 to the Peacock Possum Tales Heritage Arts Center in support of a heritage preservation storytelling initiative at the 1887 historic house and farm, Amelias.

“Each Grassroots ‘grant’ is really a contract for services provided to the public, and each grant award must be matched with cash from other sources, demonstrating a partnership and buy-in from the grantee and the people who participate in the programs,” stated Laura C. Lieberman, Cultural Arts Council Executive Director. “Our advisory panels this year were very impressed by the quality and potential impact of these projects.” She continued, “We are very grateful for the time and attention our advisory panels contributed, and of course we deeply appreciate the commitment of the General Assembly to local control of state dollars for arts initiatives. As a Georgia Council for the Arts Grassroots agency, the CAC is delighted to distribute state dollars for more and better cultural programming in our region where there is so much interest in and demand for arts activities.”

The Grassroots Arts Program is made possible by the Georgia Council for the Arts, with funding from the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia General Assembly realizes that community-based programs in the arts enliven our communities, educate us and enrich our lives. Therefore, funds are appropriated each year to help non-profit groups develop arts programs in each county in the state at the grassroots level. This year the GAP program was reorganized by Georgia Council for the Arts in order to improve the distribution of 2009 funding statewide with 15 local arts councils, including the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County, being designated as Grassroots “superagencies” administering districts of ten or more counties.

Community organizations and arts groups from Haralson, Paulding, Heard, Meriwether, Pike, Troup, and Upson Counties interested in learning more about the Grassroots Arts Program and in applying to receive support for projects in their communities from the GAP funds remaining to be awarded for 2009 should contact the Cultural Arts Council, 770.949.2787, and visit its website, www.artsdouglas.org, where the current GAP guidelines and all application forms are available.

The Georgia Council for the Arts is the state agency that provides support for nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. Established in 1965 as the Georgia Commission on the Arts, its mission is to encourage excellence in the arts, support the arts many forms of expression and make the arts available to all Georgians by providing funding, leadership, programming and other services. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by the General Assembly, National Endowment for the Arts, and other private and public sources.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among residents of and visitors to Douglasville and Douglas County by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite organizations. The Cultural Arts Council is supported by its members and sponsors, the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and Georgia Council for the Arts, supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.