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Gateway Arch Park Foundation Receives Capacity-Building Grant from National Park Foundation for Gateway Arch National Park

Grant funds outdoor art display commissioned with St. Louis ArtWorks during Old Courthouse renovation

ST. LOUIS (April 14, 2023) Gateway Arch Park Foundation was one of 41 park partner organizations to receive a Strong Parks, Strong Communities grant from the National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. (The full list of grantees can be found on the National Park Foundation's blog.)

The grant enables Gateway Arch Park Foundation ("the Foundation") to commission a temporary mural installation that will be displayed on each side of the [construction fencing](#) around the Old Courthouse.

The Old Courthouse, part of Gateway Arch National Park, is currently undergoing a \$27.5 million renovation and is closed to the public. The murals will incorporate the civil rights themes of the Old Courthouse, as the site of the *Dred Scott* case and hundreds of other freedom suits, as well as the other new exhibits planned for the building.

The Foundation has commissioned St. Louis ArtWorks for this innovative project. St. Louis ArtWorks will hire a maximum of 15 youth apprentices (age 14-19) and two teaching artists for each season (spring and summer) to work exclusively on this project. Commissioned works of art help St. Louis ArtWorks better achieve its mission of bringing high-quality arts education and workforce development training to youth throughout the St. Louis region.

"We are thrilled to receive this support from our partners at the National Park Foundation to expand our local reach and partner with other cultural nonprofits here in St. Louis," said Ryan McClure, executive director of Gateway Arch Park Foundation. "This funding helps keep the next generation at the forefront of our work and offers more access and opportunity to communities that have historically not felt welcome in national and urban parks."

"One of the many special things about Gateway Arch National Park is the events that happened here that made such an impact on American history and even human rights globally," said Pam Sanfilippo, program manager for Museum Services & Interpretation at Gateway Arch National Park. "This funding

helps us engage youth in learning through creating and finding relevance to these important civil rights stories of our nation's past."

"We are honored to have our youth selected for this project," said Jacqueline K. Dace, executive director for St. Louis ArtWorks. "It provides them a great opportunity to showcase their skills and design public art in a highly visible area. This project further highlights to everyone how art and history can naturally coalesce."

In February, Sanfilippo gave a presentation to the ArtWorks apprentices about the Old Courthouse construction project and the park themes that will be addressed in the new exhibits to help inform the artistic design. The first two art pieces are scheduled to be installed in May and the second two in August.

About the Grant

The Strong Parks, Strong Communities grants help address nonprofit park partner needs most urgent to the parks they serve. The grants enable partner organizations to invest in strategic planning, community engagement, improving visitor experience in parks, increasing organizational relevancy and resiliency, and launching new fundraising campaigns.

"Philanthropy and partnership are essential to the success of America's national parks," said Will Shafroth, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "New funding will help park partners across the country to build capacity, improve strategic planning and fundraising initiatives, and to more deeply engage the communities and national parks they serve. Ultimately, investing in the growing community of park partners is a commitment to expanding and transforming the role philanthropy plays to ensure national parks reach their full potential."

"These strategic investments in local groups elevate the creative opportunities, organizational efficacy, and bandwidth of the professional network that [Friends Alliance](#) serves," said Vickie Mates, executive director of the National Park Friends Alliance. "We look forward to our continued collaboration and celebrating the outcomes created by these incredible grantee projects."

[Strong Parks, Strong Communities](#) is a collective effort to grow national park philanthropy across the country. Working together on this initiative, the National Park Foundation, National Park Service, and Friends Alliance enhance local philanthropic organizations, bringing park philanthropy to an elevated level.

The Strong Parks, Strong Communities capacity building grant program is made possible by the National Park Foundation Board of Directors.

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ABOUT GATEWAY ARCH PARK FOUNDATION

Gateway Arch Park Foundation is the official philanthropic partner and conservancy for Gateway Arch National Park. Its mission is to ensure the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public spaces, and attractions are a vital, welcoming, well-supported resource to the community and nation for generations to come. It seeks to fulfill its mission by providing for ongoing conservation, preservation and education at the park, in addition to hosting, facilitating and promoting community programs that bring the park and its surrounding areas in Downtown St. Louis to life. The Foundation is part of an alliance that helps meet this mission, which includes the National Park Service, Bi-State Development, Great Rivers

Greenway, Jefferson National Parks Association, and the City of St. Louis. For more information, visit ArchPark.org.

ABOUT GATEWAY ARCH NATIONAL PARK

Gateway Arch National Park is a unit of the National Park Service that commemorates Thomas Jefferson's vision of a unified continental nation and St. Louis' role as the gateway to the American West during the 19th century and preserves the Old Courthouse as the site of the Dred Scott case. The park includes the Gateway Arch, the Arch grounds and the Old Courthouse, located on the riverfront in downtown St. Louis. Admission to the Museum at the Gateway Arch is free, and most programs are free of charge and open to the public. Many programs and events at the park benefit from the generous support of park partners Gateway Arch Park Foundation, Jefferson National Parks Association, and Bi-State Development. The Gateway Arch is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Old Courthouse is currently closed. The park is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, visit NPS.gov/jeff.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation raises private funds to help protect more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts and connect all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture, and rich history. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at www.nationalparks.org.

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