



RECIPIENTS OF THE COFFEE BY DESIGN

Rebel Blend Fund

2021

Agape, Inc. — Stephen Andrew “Conversations in Compassion”

The funds will support production costs for a yearlong podcast, which creates a compassionate and empathetic community with a focus on marginalized populations including opiate misusers, the mentally ill and homeless veterans.

For more info: heartquest@gmail.com

East Shore Arts — 2022 Summer Theatre Season

A Theatre Arts Initiative born out of the Covid lockdown; East Shore Arts produced its first show Summer 2021. The funds will support a full summer season of live theatre of diverse and daring works, offered free to the public for 2022.

For more info: www.eastshorearts.com

Grime Studios — 2nd floor Expansion

Grimes Studio addresses the need for affordable and accessible artists' space as they build out additional rooms at their current facility. The funds will support renovation of their second floor, which will result in 25-30 new studios and an additional ADA compliant restroom.

For more info: grimestudioportland@gmail.com

Loquat “Loquat Riddim” — Roots & Culture Video Series

Loquat, a fashion and apparel brand focused on empowering marginalized people and causes, has launched a video series telling these stories. Production costs to create episodes focused on artists working with sound will be supported.

For more info: loquatseason@gmail.com



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Mayo Street Arts — Mayo Street Arts & East End Community School

Working in partnership with East End Community School (EECS) and its Parent Teacher Organization (EECS PTO), Mayo Street Arts will present three in-school performances—each accompanied by multiple hands-on workshops with the artists.

For more info: info@mayo-streetarts.org

2020

Embodied Equity Consulting — René Goddess Johnson & Jennie Hahn

“The Round Tables: A Daily Conversation with White Supremacy Culture” is a social justice and racial equity training program which uses Embodied Equity Play tools and the art of conversation to break down old patterns and establish new accountability norms.

For more info: EmbodiedEquityConsulting@gmail.com

New Neighbors — Reza Jalali & Morgan Rielly

Distribution of a soon to be published book on New Mainers and their contribution to Maine. Libraries and schools across the State will be given copies at no charge.

For more info: Reza.jalali@maine.edu/morganrielly95@gmail.com

Dignity for Opiate Users — Stephen Andrew

Dignity, Compassion Storytelling Conversations: Production costs for a year long podcast, which will create a compassionate and empathetic community with a focus on marginalized populations which include people who use opiates, people with mental illness and veterans who are homeless.

For more info: dignitymaine@gmail.com

2019

Dignity — Pieces of Recovery: The Puzzle Project

An arts and social justice project created by activist, advocate and artist Glenn Simpson. The 80-foot wall of 354 unique artistic expressions of “what recovery looks like,” was crafted by people throughout Maine in treatment centers, detox facilities, prison pre-release centers, recovery houses, resource centers, and at public recovery celebrations. The project will travel throughout the state and beyond, sharing the message that the opposite of addiction is connection.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Figures of Speech Theatre & The Park Danforth — Engaging Family & Building Community through TimeSlips Storytelling

Figures of Speech Theatre and The Park Danforth have joined forces to build an intergenerational community which engages life-enrichment staff and the families of residents with memory impairments through TimeSlips, a storytelling format designed for use by people with cognitive disabilities like dementia. It is based on shifting the emphasis from memory to imagination.

Gateway Community Services Maine — Youth-led Community Mural

Gateway Community Services Maine (GCSM) is a non-profit organization which was created to meet gaps in the lives of immigrant, refugee, and asylees, including the opportunity for community connections. The new mural, which will be displayed at their Portland location, will begin with a youth-led community discussion to gather ideas for a design that reflects the community. Youth, and the community at large, will also be actively involved in painting the mural!

Gulf of Maine ECOARTS

The first Gulf of Maine ECOARTS project is a multi-year art/science/educational initiative that focuses on the changes in biodiversity in the Gulf due to climate change and other human impact. The first installation – a fictional ecosystem – will be designed and built by six professional Maine sculptors and filmmakers and more than one hundred students ranging from middle-school through college level. The sculpture will be made with 95% beach debris and recycled, re-purposed materials. The first venue for the large-scale arts installation will be Bigelow Lab of Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay, Maine.

Joshua Hughes Entertainment — Black Kid Joy (staged play)

Joshua Hughes Entertainment is a newly formed company that presents brave new plays and concerts by artists of color – works of art designed to enhance self-worth, self-value, and identity for the often-marginalized youth of Greater Portland. Black Kid Joy and its multi-generational cast celebrates culture, music, dance, song, unity, pride, and, most of all, joy.

Maine Music & Health, LLC — That's So Portland!

That's So Portland! is a multi-generational, multi-genre musical web series dedicated to encouraging women of all ages in the music industry. Maine Music & Health believes that we can use the power of musical experiences to help individuals and communities reach their highest potential.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

STAGES Youth Theater — Building Empathy through Theatre for Young Audiences

STAGES Youth Theater produces work for young children and their families that sparks discussion, interactive workshops, and other activities. They believe that creativity is inherent in children of all ages and that participation in the performing arts unlocks the imagination, builds self-esteem, and provides a meaningful opportunity for young people to learn about themselves and the world around them.

2018

Atomic Classroom

Kate Cutko, an artist, librarian, and social worker, is current converting a vintage Airstream into a traveling art classroom called “Atomic Classroom.” She plans to use it for art classes as well as at festivals, and plans to make it available to other artists and community groups at no cost. The funding will help complete the construction of the mobile classroom.

Maine Youth Rock Orchestra — “Rock Project”

The Rock Project is a free school program bringing music educators from the Maine Youth Rock Orchestra into schools. Its goal is to engage students and young musicians through free instruction, helping to grow the next wave of Maine artists.

Intersection

Street photography artist Karen Merritt and graphic artist Don Marietta are working to create photographic and graphic art installations with the goal of helping people see themselves in the statistics of issues impacting Mainers. Issues addressed will include mental health, substance use, identity and security while raising awareness for support services.

Palaver Strings

Maya French is planning to open a music school in the fall of 2019, called Palaver Strings. The school, and its outreach programs, will focus on parent and child bonding, school readiness in early childhood, healthy after-school activities and critical thinking skills. The Rebel Blend grant will help with several planned outreach projects, including Lullaby Project, a performance residency, and a project with Maine Youth Rock Orchestra.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

“City of Hidden Figures”: Inaugural Mural

Artist and activist Abigail Gray Swartz is creating a mural called “Maine Women in the Arts” as the launch of a national project celebrating female figures throughout history. The Rebel Blend Fund grant will help with a mural planned for the exterior wall of Running with Scissors and depicting artists Dahlov Ipcar, Louise Nevelson and Mary Mitchell Gabriel.

2017

Bring on the Arts Back to the Grange!

Bring on the Arts Back to the Grange received \$2,800. The Harraseeket Grange no. 9 is one of the oldest Granges in Maine. The Grange, today, mirrors the original concept with rites that are the same as those performed across the country since 1874. Artists, farmers, musicians, film makers, environmentalists and farm to table proponents are working hard to return the Grange to the role of a vital cultural center that showcases arts and community.

Maine Storytelling Muster Outreach

Maine Storytelling Muster Outreach received \$1,000. The Maine Muster brings together storytellers from the Northeast to share their art, engage communities and learn from each other. Their outreach program intends to bring storytellers to Bangor, Northern Aroostook and Southern Aroostook to increase the awareness of storytelling with workshops, swaps, performances and inviting others to participate in the art and craft of storytelling.

Make Music Day Portland

Make Music Day Portland received \$1,500. Make Music Day Portland is a community event that strengthens social and cultural ties, elevates Portland’s international status, and supports amateur and professional musicians. Occurring each year on the summer solstice all around greater Portland, the event is a day of free musical concerts, lessons, jam sessions, and join-in programming. During this day-long celebration, the city comes alive with music with performances on city sidewalks, in parks, patios, and even on back porches.

2016

240 Strings

This organization reaches families who otherwise couldn’t bring classical music into their children’s lives. Children receive classical music lessons and instruments for a year, participate in workshops, and attend chamber music concerts. They will also perform often within the community.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

LumenARRT!

The Artists' Rapid Response Team (ARRT!) creates rich visuals for progressive nonprofit organizations to promote social change in Maine and educate the public. LumenARRT! uses large-scale video projections to create dynamic experiences that amplify these messages.

New Fruit

This collective is a women-run alternative arts space for those who identify as women, gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. New Fruit encourages artists to take risks and challenge themselves and their audience through nontraditional materials or modalities.

2015

Cultivating A Pollinator — Friendly Yard: A Seasonal Guide for Mainers

To address the rapidly declining population of bees, artist Hannah Rosengren created a poster in 2013 illustrating plants known to attract bees. The illustration went viral. Since then, she has shifted her focus to Maine specifically, outlining steps residents can take to help all native pollinators and to care for their yards in an eco-friendly way, going beyond not just what to plant, but why and how. The funds will be used to produce a seasonally specific illustrated 'zine to communicate this information in a user-friendly way.

“White Like You, Mommy”

There are two main goals for this project: to introduce people to the art of documentary story telling through video and to create a visual, personal piece that reflects a part of the population that is not normally recognized. The project grew out of Lesley MacVane's experience when putting her then three-year-old biracial daughter to bed. It opened the artist's eyes to the responsibilities that come with mothering a child of color in the US, with the added complexity of being a white mother whose heritage was not fraught with racist prejudices. This documentary film shares the stories of white mothers, their black children and, in some cases, their grandchildren. These stories are an increasingly important part of the changing face of Maine.

Salvaged Crafts

The Salvaged Crafts project is managed by Enactus at the University of Southern Maine. The group will implement this project through Creative Works Systems and their “YES Art Works” program to offer an opportunity for individuals living with developmental disabilities to generate their own source of income. It will reduce the amount of non-recycled paper waste being disposed of by local businesses. Participants will be taught to make handmade crafts, specifically craft paper, through a special process using recycled paper products. Project leads will then assist in marketing these products throughout Maine and online.



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Maine Burundi Drumming World Connect

In 2011, a group of Burundians living in Portland and trained in the ritual dance of Burundi Drum organized to form the Batimbo Beats. Since its creation, the group has shown its commitment to Southern Maine by performing throughout the area. Batimbo Beats use their performance to promote societal development and grow awareness of cultural diversity in Maine. The group will use Rebel Blend funding to purchase materials, many that can only be acquired from Burundi, such as traditional costumes and Ankole skins to repair drums.

2014

BGB African Music & Arts

BGB African Music & Art, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that was created to build awareness, educate, empower, develop, inspire, and promote support and understanding of the multi-cultures in the continent of Africa, and the African Diaspora all over the world, through music and art. BGB African Music & Art, Inc. has various outreach programs to educate, develop, inspire, and empower African children and adults to live their dreams, giving them the hope they need to have a fulfilled life through their artistic talent, hence bringing various forms of development, employment opportunities, and more to their communities.

CSArt Maine

CSArt is inspired by a national movement to create alternative and sustainable models for producing and purchasing art. They are excited to be Portland's first community supported art share program. Similar to a farm share, where shareholders receive a seasonal share of produce, CSArt Maine shareholders receive portions of locally produced art and handmade goods each season they invest. One of the primary goals of the program is to highlight the work of both emerging and established artists in Maine.

Maine Inside Out

Maine Inside Out was founded in 2007 by three Maine women with diverse backgrounds in theater, counseling, social work, and creative writing. They collaborate with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people to create and share original theater, inside and outside of corrections facilities. Maine Inside Out has facilitated programs at Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland, the former Women's Reentry Center in Bangor, Learning Works in Portland, and Portland High School. They currently provide an ongoing program at Long Creek and have recently spearheaded the development of the Southern Maine Reentry Coalition, a group of community stakeholders working to help improve the experience of newly released offenders reentering the community. This project provides a venue for incarcerated individuals to find their voice as individuals, tell their stories, and create a collective and original art piece that they perform for an audience outside of the facilities.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

The Portland Symphony Orchestra: Portland Lullaby Project

In the winter of 2013, the Portland Symphony Orchestra was contacted by education program staff at Carnegie Hall to discuss the possibility of participating as a national partner in their Lullaby Project. Originally, solely a New York-based Carnegie initiative, the program began with a group of incarcerated women at Rikers Island. Lullabies are at the heart of this creative project which focuses on young mothers in justice and social service settings, teen clinics at hospitals, and homeless shelters. Expectant mothers and mothers of infants will collaborate with local professional musicians to write personal lullabies for their babies. The lullabies are professionally recorded and the completed recordings are given to the mothers to play for their babies. This creative experience helps young women and their partners imagine themselves as parents, bond with their babies, and establish positive support networks. The Project has just launched a Kickstarter campaign to complete the final piece of funding to make this project come to life.

Dietlind Vander Schaaf's "Our Stories" Workshop

"Our Stories" is a Narrative Collage workshop for Women and Girls from the Refugee Community. "Our stories" will focus on telling stories through text and image on cradled wood panels, using various gluing and Image transfer techniques. The class was offered in the spring through Maine College of Art's Continuing Studies.

2013

Joshua DeMello: Re imagined Topographics

Josh is in his third semester of an MFA program in Interdisciplinary Arts at Goddard College. In his words, Re imagined Topographics is a "subjective subversion to the hyper mediated mainstream of oppressive fear created by popular end of the world sceneries. The subversive aspect of Re imagined Topographics is tied to recognizing and engaging in dialogue about the rational solutions available to our environmental problems and consumer based choices." The Rebel Blend Fund helped Josh with the cost of producing books and posters centered around this community-based project.

Thalassa Raasch: The Gravedigger Hall

Thalassa is a graduate of Harvard and the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. Her most recent documentary project, The Gravedigger Hall, follows the story of a 67 year-old Mainer who has been digging graves by hand for almost 50 years. Now a year into the project, Thalassa sought funding from the Rebel Blend Fund to offset the costs of travel, equipment, and physical materials needed to tell this story.



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Christopher Byron Wright: Edible East Bayside

Chris, President of the East Bayside Neighborhood Organization, is collaborating with the City of Portland and The Resilient Hub to transform the Bayside Trail into an edible food forest. With the help of the Rebel Blend Fund, Chris says he and his team will “design, plant, and grow an edible urban forest that is a model for edible landscaping throughout Portland.”

Portland Ballet: Behind the Window

Behind the Window brings professional dance to the community through free performances in the window of the Portland Public Library as part of the First Friday Art Walk. The Ballet sought out funding to provide a much deserved stipend to these professional dancers for their work. Coffee By Design felt this to be a deserving cause because of the strong connection we have to the arts and First Friday, in particular.

2012

Yes Art Works

A division of Creative Work Systems, based in Saco, Maine, Yes Art Works provides an array of creative opportunities for people with intellectual and other disabilities to flourish, cultivating pride, confidence, and further independence as working artists.

The Telling Room

A nonprofit writing center in Portland, Maine, The Telling Room seeks to build confidence, strengthen literary skills, and provide real audiences for young writers ages 6-18.

Lewiston Auburn Film Festival (Student Competition)

The First Annual Student Film Competition joined the regular Lewiston Auburn Film Festival in April of 2013 thanks to the Rebel Blend Grant. This allowed filmmakers age 18 and under (or 22 and under still enrolled in a post-secondary school) to submit films and compete in their own section of the festival.

2011

Greenlight Studio Spectrum Players

The Spectrum Players is a theater group made up of kids ages 7–12, most of whom are on the autism spectrum. Creating a theater piece incorporating the kids’ own language, movement, and story ideas, Greenlight Studio is nurturing and cultivating communication with a wider audience and among the players themselves. One goal of Spectrum Players is to bring awareness of, and conversation about, autism in our community. The Spectrum Players will use the Rebel Blend Fund to help create sets, props, music, costumes, programs, and advertising.



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Sebastian Meade Maine Robot Revolution

Sebastian is creating paintings and sculptures in a statewide Robot Revolution exhibit. By combining unlikely objects into humanoid or creature-like figures, Sebastian brings post-industrial refuse into the new era. The sculptures have evolved into a group of friendly aliens who have ingratiated themselves into different areas of Maine. The paintings suggest the origin and movement of the robot community. His artistic philosophy is to bring art experiences to people when, where and how they least expect it. Sebastian used the Rebel Blend Fund to for to create sculptures and paintings that will populate Biddeford, Portland, Freeport, Lewiston, Bangor, and each CBD coffeehouse, to coincide with Kahbang! 2012 (the arts and music event which kicked off its inaugural year in 2011).

Mayo Street Arts Children's Puppet Workshop

The Children's Puppet Workshop is an arts and humanities workshop for youths in the East Bayside area of Portland. Youths work with professional puppeteers to write their own scripts and make their own puppets. The program focuses on reading, writing, building puppets, and culminates with a community performance and month-long gallery exhibit. Mayo Street Arts will use the Rebel Blend Fund for teaching fees, rent and utilities, materials, equipment, snacks and promotional materials.

2010

Refugee Women's Craft Collective

The Refugee Women's Craft Collective was established in January of 2010 by the Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services. The mission of this collective is to help refugee women achieve self-sufficiency through the creation of handmade crafts, which are unique to each of their respective homelands. The Rebel Blend Fund will help the Craft Collective accomplish their project goals by funding registration fees for Portland-area craft shows, festivals, and art galleries. In addition, the Collective would like to offer sewing classes and financial literacy classes to women interested in joining the Collective.

Shana Berry's "The Fofer Show"

"The Fofer Show" is an hour-long animated concert featuring original stories and songs accompanied by guitar and ukulele with illustrated projected animations and visits from The Fofers (3-foot tall soft & furry dolls). The Rebel Blend Fund will help Shana to bring "The Fofer Show" to low-income housing projects in Portland.



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

Frederick Greenhalgh's "The Cleansed"

"The Cleansed" is a post-apocalyptic tale of our time, exploring a world where a shortage of fossil fuels has caused the unraveling of civil society. From this horror comes hope, as a new generation tries to reclaim their world and understand what happened before them. The first season will consist of ten 30-minute episodes. The Rebel Blend Fund will help support this project by providing direct funding to production costs.

2009

Amy Stacey Curtis

The funds provided were used to support Amy's continued work on solo-biennial exhibits of interactive installation and new-media works in the mills of various Maine towns.

Maine Academy of Modern Music

The MAMM is Maine's only nonprofit music school devoted to providing instruction in pop, rock, hip hop, and other modern genres that appeal to young people today. Monies were used to provide music scholarships for at-risk youth.

Children's Chorus of Maine: Pinatchu

Children's Chorus of Maine This multi-national immigrant children's chorus based in Portland, Maine was able to produce a CD of their music for submission to the 2011 Grammy Awards, as well as to send to potential sponsors of their programs.

2008

Preble Street Teen Center

Funds were granted to support Uncensored Creativity (UC) Collective's "Radical Acceptance" art 'zine. With the Rebel Blend monies, the Collective was able to produce more copies of their quarterly publication, as well as expand UC projects and to actually buy supplies to transform ideas into art—rather than limiting imagination by what can be done with supplies that are donated.

2007

East End Community School

The grant was used to support the creation of the African Drumming and Percussion Project at the East End Community School located in Portland, Maine. African master drummer/instructor, Jordan Benisson was able to purchase traditional African instruments for his class. The Rebel Blend Funds gave "each and every child an opportunity to find their voice through music" and connect with the community to "celebrate Portland's multicultural and multiracial community" through a series of public concerts.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

2006

Karen Montanaro

This award-winning choreographer and innovator of mimedance, the unique fusion of two classical art forms, Karen used the Rebel Fund Grant to launch her epic mimedance, “The Struggle To Be.” The piece premiered as part of the Cassandra Project at the St. Lawrence Arts Center in Portland.

2005

Reiche Community Center

Overseen by the Portland Parks and Recreation Department, this program allowed the Center to launch a fine arts program. One of the project’s goals was to “invigorate recreation programs” and “create a new energy...working towards a positive vision for young people.”

2004

Very Special Arts of Maine

The Rebel Blend Fund provided the resources needed to jumpstart the Employment Training through the Arts program which allowed people with disabilities and at-risk to express themselves, as well as reach out and touch the Maine community through art.

2003

Spindleworks

Spindleworks was given the opportunity to launch a newspaper giving voice to the artists who participate in their art center. The organization’s mission is to help children and adults with disability achieve full and inclusive lives in their chosen community.

Ultralight

Funding assisted with the production of a performance piece which tackled the issue of substance abuse. This artistic endeavor was performed throughout the state of Maine.

2002

Six by Six

Evan Roberts’ proposal was to complete an oral history project demonstrating how people are connected to one another by a pathway of other people in the community. The project involved interviewing one person who then introduced Evan to a friend who then connected him to the next person in their personal web. The end product was the “web” of connections.



REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

2001

A Company of Girls

A Company of Girls (ACOG) is an afterschool theatre and arts-based resiliency program for girls ages 8-18. The members of ACOG are from many diverse communities in the greater Portland Area. Funding assisted this group, which was in its infancy with productions. Still going strong today, ACOG continues its mission to strengthen and empower girls and their families and foster community through the arts.

2000

Odelle Bowman — Point Last Seen

Based on Hannah Nyala's life story, Point Last Seen is about a woman escaping an abusive marriage and picking up the pieces of her life, as she heals physically and spiritually. Odelle, along with Dawn McAndrews, adapted the book into a performance piece which continues to be performed today.

Anne Sibley O'Brien — White Lies

Raised bilingual and bicultural in South Korea, American author/illustrator Anne Sibley O'Brien created a one-woman show "White Lies: one woman's quest for release from the enchantment of whiteness."

Filament Gallery

"The Hill Project" is a collaborative collage mapping the diversity of Munjoy Hill.

1999

Deborah Eve Freedman

Storytelling for children at the Barbara Bush Wing of the Maine Medical Center.

Eugene Cole

Photo documentary of the Maine surfing community.

Esduardo Mariscal Dance Theater

Dance outreach throughout the state of Maine.





REBEL BLEND FUND RECIPIENTS

1998

Very Special Arts of Maine: Portland Museum Art Show

VSA arts of Maine (formerly Very Special Arts Maine) is a nonprofit art, education, and disability organization with the mission to ensure that every person with a disability has the opportunity to use the arts to rise to his or her full potential. They had the opportunity to show their artists' work at the Portland Museum of Art and used the Rebel Blend fund to make this dream a reality.

Tom Antonik

Photo documentary of the Quaker Community in Maine.

