



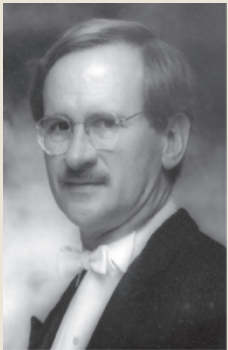
# John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund Impact Report



**T**he John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund provides annual grants to nonprofit organizations that support, promote, and advance the arts across South Carolina. Established in 2000 by the estate of John Bennett, a prominent Charleston attorney and passionate poetry enthusiast, the Fund honors the legacy of John's grandparents—intellectual leaders and avid supporters of the arts during Charleston's literary renaissance.

Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than \$1.5 million to arts-focused nonprofits throughout South Carolina, made possible through the generosity of 28 donors who have contributed nearly \$1 million to sustain and grow its impact.

## A Legacy of Service, Philanthropy, and Commitment to the Arts



John Bennett, a Charleston native, attended the Gaud School before earning his bachelor's degree from George Washington University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina. He went on to establish a distinguished career as a Charleston attorney and served as president of the Poetry Society of South Carolina.

John's commitment to public service was widely recognized. He received the Thomas A. Corn

Award from the Neighborhood Legal Assistance Program in 1984 and the Charleston County Bar Association's Gedney M. Howe Award for Public Service in both 1986 and 1987. Beyond his legal work, he served on the Board of Directors for the Christian Family Y and as Executive Director of the Clariosophic Foundation.

"John was one of the most benevolent men I have ever known," said his cousin, Becky Davis. "When he became sick and I began to read the letters that came for him, I realized how good he had been to others."

Today, John's philanthropic spirit lives on through the countless lives he touched and continues to impact through the legacy of this fund.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$970K**  
TOTAL  
DONATIONS

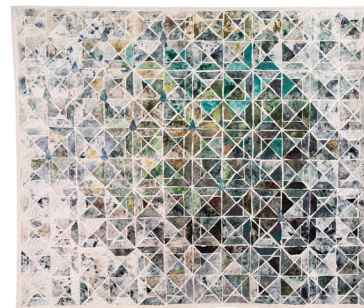
**28**  
TOTAL  
DONORS

**\$1.55M**  
TOTAL  
GRANTMAKING

**77**  
ORGANIZATIONS  
SUPPORTED

## Expanding the Arts in South Carolina

The South Carolina Arts Commission (SCAC) is dedicated to ensuring equitable access to the arts and fostering creativity across the state. By prioritizing arts learning, artist development, and the growth of the arts industry, SCAC enriches the lives of South Carolinians.



*Sprinkle, by grant recipient Katy Mixon*

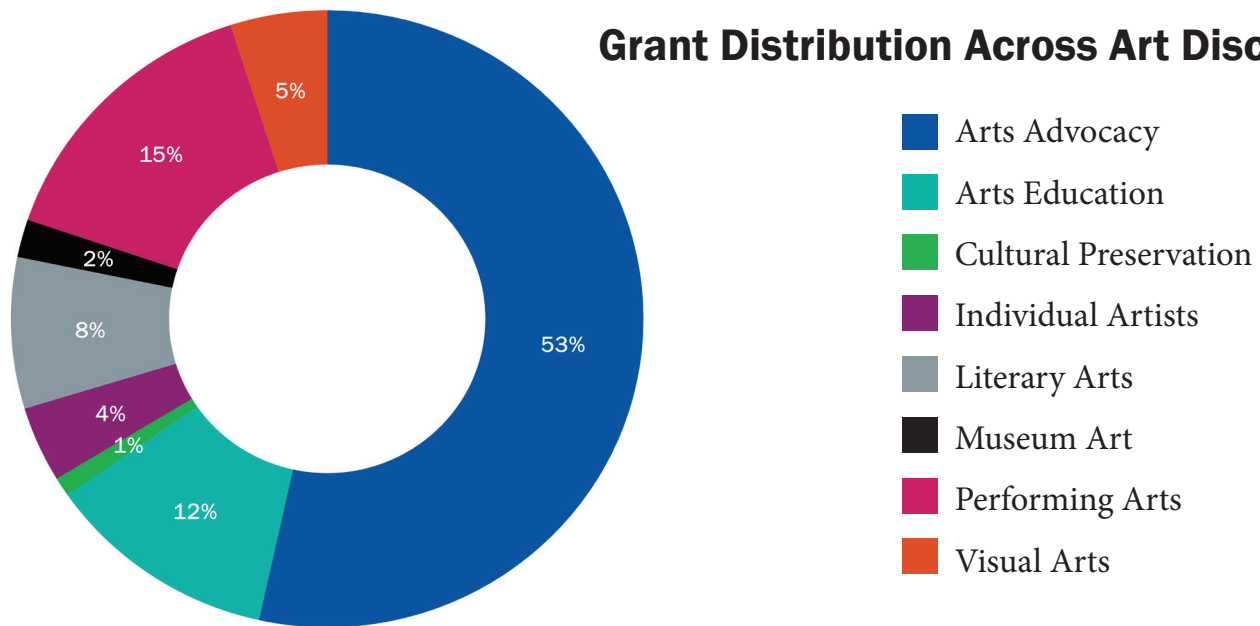
The generous support of the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund has been instrumental in advancing SCAC's mission. In fiscal year 2024 alone, this funding contributed to a pool of 95 grant awards totaling \$195,247, benefiting 26 of South Carolina's 46 counties. These grants have

empowered artists to create and share new works, supported community-focused events and funded public art installations.

"Funding from the John & Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund is critical to the SCAC's support of artists and arts organizations from the Lowcountry to communities across the state," said SCAC Executive Director David Platt. "Partnering with CCF expands our reach and increases access to the transformative power of the arts."

Through this enduring partnership, SCAC continues to make significant strides in expanding arts accessibility, nurturing creative growth, and enriching communities statewide.

## Grant Distribution Across Art Disciplines



## Grantees of the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund

American College of the Building Arts	Coastal Community Foundation Expansion Arts Fund	Hampton Friends of the Arts, Inc.	Redux Contemporary Art Center
Art Forms & Theatre Concepts, Inc.	College of Charleston	Isaiah Daise	Samuel Sfirri
Ashley Harwood	College of Charleston Foundation	J.W. Rone	Sandra Dimke
Bands of Wando Foundation	Colleton County Arts Council, Inc.	James St. Clair	Smalls Institute for Music and Youth Leadership
Beki Crowell	Colour of Music, Inc.	Jean Norton-Torjussen	Society of Bluffton Artists
Bill Carson	Cookie Washington	Jeffrey Poole	South Carolina Arts Commission
BOLD Dance Co., LLC	Dance Matters	Joanna Jackson	South Carolina Arts Foundation 1989
Brookgreen Gardens	Daryl L. Wellington	Jocelyn Chateauvert	Storytree Theatre
Carol Simmons	David Ross Puls	Kim Keats	Summerville Community Orchestra
Chamber Music Charleston	Dede Ondishko	Lisa Rentz	The Citadel Foundation
Charleston Academy of Music	Diogenette Lavern Singleton	Marquetta L. Goodwine	The Poetry Society of South Carolina
Charleston Artist Guild	Flowertown Players, Inc.	Mary Sullivan	The Village Group
Charleston Ballet Theatre	Footlight Players	McClellanville Arts Council	Tracye Stormer
Charleston Concert Association	Georgette Sanders	Media Reform SC, Inc.	Triangle Strategic and Financial Advising for Not-for-Profit
Charleston Gaillard Center	Gertrude Palmer	Molly Hayes	Upper Dorchester County Historical Society, Inc.
Charleston Jazz	Gibbes Museum of Art	New Music Collective	Wassamasaw Tribe of Varnertown Indians
Charleston Library Society	Gullah Geechee Angel Network	North Charleston POPS!	Yo Art, Inc.
Charleston Museum	Gullah Geechee Group	Pawleys Island Festival of Music & Art	Youth Orchestra of the Lowcountry
Charleston Symphony Orchestra	Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art	Public Works Art Center	
City of Charleston, S.C.		PURE Theatre	

## Thank You to the Donors of the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund

*The John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund continues to benefit from the generosity of individuals, families and businesses who have a passion for advancing the arts across South Carolina.*

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