

**PRESS RELEASE**

**December 11, 2009**

The Arts Council, Inc.  
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**The Arts Council Announces Arts License Plate Grant Recipients**

The Arts Council proudly announces grants made for the following program with funds received from sales of the Arts License Plate in Martin County. Since the inception of the arts license plate in 1994, more than \$125,000 has been invested in Martin County arts education and outreach projects under the guidance of the Arts Council.

Grants approved at the December Board Meeting of the Arts Council, for a total of \$4,825, are for the following programs:

<b>Arts Council “ArtsFest”</b>	To hire "Riverboat John Ferguson" for 2-3 performances each day at ArtsFest plus 2 in-school performances on Friday before. Supports partnership with the "Big Read" literacy program with the Martin County Library System.
<b>Florida Arts &amp; Dance: FADC Ballet Brunch</b>	To support the choreographing, organizing, production and hosting of four open to the public ballet brunches. Events will be performed in Jensen, Hobe Sound, Stuart and Indiantown.
<b>Florida Arts &amp; Dance: Warfield Dance Troup</b>	The music teacher at Warfield Elementary, Elliott Harris, is trying to start a dance company for his students. In the 2nd part of the school year we are collaboratively requesting funds to support an FADC instructor to produce a full dance company at WES.
<b>Duck in the Truck Puppets</b>	Performances at local libraries to use puppets, music, and costumed characters to present a program that helps promote childhood literacy and the appreciation of school and books.
<b>Treasure Coast Music Teachers Association</b>	To support a community concert featuring acclaimed concert pianist and pedagogue, Tao Lin. His brilliant technique and intimate pianism will appeal to students of all ages throughout the Treasure Coast. In addition, he will conduct a public Master Class working with piano students of all levels in order to improve technical and performance skills.
<b>Samaritan House for Boys</b>	To support "drama therapy through theater" in our Arts Program for our students, boys ages 6 to 12. They will be involved with script writing, creating costumes, building props and sets, and performances.

To qualify for funding, applicants must submit a grant application which is then reviewed by a subcommittee of the Board of Directors and adopted upon recommendation by the committee to the Board. Grants are made twice per year, December and June. Applications are due in April and October.

The Arts Council is the designated local arts agency for Martin County. The Arts Council provides services to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students and the public and strives to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. For more information, please call 772-287-6676 or visit [www.martinarts.org](http://www.martinarts.org). The Arts Council is sponsored in part by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Stuart, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, and private contributions.

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