

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

July 16, 2014

The Arts Council, Inc.
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**THE ARTS COUNCIL OF MARTIN COUNTY RECEIVES GRANTS
FOR POWER UP EXCELLENCE**

Stuart, FL (JULY 16, 2014) – The Arts Council of Martin County is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties. (The Community Foundation grant was made possible by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fund)

Funds from the grants will support the Power Up Excellence program designed to propel programmatic excellence in order to achieve greater impact within our cultural community through fostering partnerships, exposure to best practices from model programs and implementing a process for feedback that will support the growth of the cultural sector.

The Council is engaged in supporting and promoting cultural organizations and artists who make our community a better place to live. “The goals of Power Up Excellence are a perfect match with our purpose in the community. With these additional resources we will be able to build capacity within our cultural organizations through convening sessions designed to enhance program planning, marketing, collaboration and accessibility. With our colleagues throughout South Florida, we will be engaging speakers who are able to share their professional experiences and recommendations,” stated Nancy Turrell, executive director.

The schedule of Convening Sessions will be posted on the Arts Council’s website and announced at the September 19th Annual Meeting. A survey implemented by our partner, Americans for the Arts, will be distributed to the leaders of cultural organizations in August to gather feedback for the design and focus of each convening session. In addition to the Convening Sessions, peer networking sessions will be incorporated to foster the building of relationships between staff and volunteers of the many performing, literary and visual organizations arts serving our community.

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About The Arts Council of Martin County

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.

The Arts Council is sponsored in part by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, the City of Stuart, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, and private contributions.

About the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties

The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties is one of Florida's largest community foundations. The nonprofit organization has invested more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships over its 40-year history. At its core, the Community Foundation is an organization created with gifts from generous people committed to local causes. For donors, the Foundation serves as a philanthropic advisor. For the community, the Foundation serves as a grant maker and a civic leader. Through the support of its donors and fundholders, the Foundation has been able to address some of the community's most pressing needs, including hunger, housing and education. For more information, visit www.yourcommunityfoundation.org.