

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Burlington City Arts Awarded \$40,000 Gift From Tito's Handmade Vodka To Expand Community Fund Program**  
*Funding will Enable Burlington City Arts to Create Additional Grant Funding Opportunities for Individuals and Art Organizations in 2024*

**Burlington, VT November 3, 2023**— [Burlington City Arts \(BCA\)](#) is excited to announce that it was recently awarded \$40,000 from [Tito's Handmade Vodka](#) to support the **2024 BCA Community Fund program**. As pandemic-era relief funding sources come to an end, many arts organizations still struggle with post-pandemic challenges, such as inflation, difficulty rehiring, and a shift in audience behaviors that require revising programs. The BCA [Community Fund](#) will be used to directly support Burlington artists and arts organizations with funding to fulfill their mission, support artists, create new work, and further the local economic impact of arts spending.

In 2024, support from Tito's Handmade Vodka and the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** will allow BCA to double its granting ability. Recipients of the 2024 BCA Community Fund receive grants of up to \$5,000 each to support a Burlington-based project that promotes a vibrant creative community and contributes to the greater public good. The application period for individual artists/artist groups and arts organizations will open in April 2024 and recipients will be announced in June 2024.

"It is imperative that BCA finds ways to continue supporting artists whose work and careers were affected beyond the timeframe of the pandemic," says **Doreen Kraft, Executive Director of BCA**. "We are so grateful to be able to double our impact, granting a total of \$70,000 directly to the local artists and artists organizations who need it most."

Established in 2016, the BCA Community Fund is designed to foster a robust, healthy, creative community, encourage social innovation through the arts, and support artists and organizations that contribute to the public good through art. Past funded projects include artist Renee Greenlee's *Blue Alchemy* cyanotype public art installation, the Ramble, an annual, all-day arts festival celebrating the creative culture of The Old North End, and Vermont Stage's production of "The Pitmen Painters," among many others.

"As a company, we've always been passionate about uplifting aspiring artists to help them accomplish their dreams," said **Lindsey Bates, Director of Philanthropy Operations for Tito's Handmade Vodka**. "That's why we're excited to support Burlington City Arts in their expanded program to elevate local artists, and we look forward to seeing their continued impact in the years to come."

Supporting diverse and talented recipients who span a wide range of artistic disciplines and reflect the vibrant and dynamic arts community in Burlington, the funded projects and initiatives will contribute to the cultural landscape and enrich the lives of community members.

The 2024 BCA Community Fund will be a testament to BCA's ongoing commitment to supporting local artists and arts organizations, nurturing creativity, and promoting community engagement. Thanks to Tito's Handmade Vodka, the increased granting capacity will provide greater resources and opportunities for artists and organizations to realize their artistic visions and make a lasting impact.

For more information about the 2024 BCA Community Fund and the funded projects, please visit <https://www.burlingtoncityarts.org/artist-resources>.

Tito's Handmade Vodka has been a loyal supporter of Burlington City Arts since the arts organization launched Highlight, Burlington's official New Year's Eve celebration, in 2018. In addition to helping BCA kick off the New Year on a spirited note, Tito's Handmade Vodka works year-round to support amazing causes that benefit Vermont communities. Some of these causes include animal welfare, military and veterans services, arts and music, education, food insecurity, adaptive sports, and so much more. Look for special Tito's Handmade Vodka cocktails at all Highlight 2023 bars.

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#### **About Burlington City Arts**

Burlington City Arts is dedicated to connecting the community to the arts through creation, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. BCA offers exhibitions, special events, classes, workshops, and many other activities in Burlington.

#### **About Tito's Handmade Vodka**

Tito's Handmade Vodka was founded by sixth-generation Texan, Bert "Tito" Beveridge. In the mid-nineties, on a plot of land in rural Austin, he built a 998 square foot shack, rigged a pot still with spare parts, and created Tito's Handmade Vodka. Tito's corn-based vodka is certified gluten free. Tito's Handmade Vodka is distilled and bottled by Fifth Generation, Inc. in Austin, Texas, and is available in Liter, 1.75L, 750ml, 375ml, 200ml, and 50ml sizes. For more information, visit [www.titosvodka.com](http://www.titosvodka.com).