



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Suzanne Lynch, 615-741-1703, [suzanne.lynch@tn.gov](mailto:suzanne.lynch@tn.gov)

June 20, 2016

## **Blues City Cultural Center, Inc. receives grant to strengthen economic vitality, livability and growth through the arts**

NASHVILLE — The Blues City Cultural Center, Inc., along with 12 other recipients that include nonprofit organizations, cities and local governments, has been awarded a FY 2017 Creative Placemaking grant distributed by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Blues City Cultural Center will use the \$5,700 award for *If You Can't Stand the Heat*, a six-month serial.

Blues City Cultural Center will engage Orange Mound community residents, ages 50 and over, as well as their care-givers, over a six-month period through serial drama and technology to explore health issues that disproportionately affect African American populations. Recordings of the serial performances will be made available on Blues City's YouTube Channel and played at the Christ Community Health Services and the Orange Mound Community Services Centers.

"The project is an example of how the arts can be utilized to help address critical health issues and provide support for the aging in our communities," said Senator Lee Harris. "I applaud the Blues City Cultural Center for developing this initiative on creative aging."

The Creative Placemaking grants competition was designed to help build stronger communities through the arts to enhance the distinctive character of local Tennessee places for positive economic and community outcomes. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business visibility and public safety, increases tourism and brings diverse people together to build shared understanding of culture and community.

"This project demonstrates how to create an age-friendly community that offers lifelong learning and engagement in the arts," said Representative Barbara Cooper.

In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, nonprofit and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of their neighborhood, town, city or region around arts and cultural activities or assets.

“These investments support local efforts to enhance quality of life, increase economic and creative activity, and help create and expand a distinct sense of place through the arts,” said Anne B. Pope, Executive Director for the Tennessee Arts Commission.

The Commission’s allocation process involved a review by an independent panel that included national experts on creative placemaking and local leaders. The panel met on May 26, 2016 to evaluate all eligible applications based on published criteria. All grant applications were evaluated on a competitive basis, taking into account the project type, geographic location and whether the project was in a rural or urban community.

With the mission to cultivate the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities, the Commission funds a variety of arts projects through several grant categories. Each year, these grants help fund arts and cultural activities for more than 600 schools, local governments and nonprofit organizations in communities across all 95 counties. Visit [tnartscommission.org](http://tnartscommission.org) for more information.

##