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Dalton Downtown Arts Initiative Receives S.C. Arts Commission Grant

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University's College of Visual and Performing Arts recently was awarded a $15,000 S.C. Arts Commission grant to diversify participation in the arts in downtown Rock Hill through the Dalton Downtown Arts Initiative. The collaborative project also involves Clinton Junior College and Rock Hill downtown arts providers.

State grants awarded through the Statewide Arts Participation Project aim to help South Carolina art providers develop initiatives that will broaden, deepen or diversify public participation in the arts. Winthrop is matching the grant with $15,000.

The funding will be used to develop strategies for building public participation in the arts by creating a community advisory group. The group will serve to help gain new insights into responsive arts programming for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, Clinton Junior College’s Dalton Gallery and Rock Hill downtown arts providers. Grant funding also will be used for programming, including visiting artists’ stipends, marketing, receptions and community art events.

Currently, the Dalton initiative is exhibiting Two Worlds Outside: Nukain Mabusa and Joshua Samuel Oct. 1 through 25 at Clinton's Dalton Gallery. The next exhibition, Two Worlds in Sight: Latasha Hollings and Alf Ward, opens with a public reception at 7 p.m. on Oct. 30 at Clinton. Two Worlds in Sight continues through Dec. 6. The Dalton Gallery is located in the Clinton Junior College Library at 1029 Crawford Rd. in Rock Hill. All events are free and open to the public.

“The Arts Commission grant will give us an opportunity to continue work we began last year with the initiation of the Dalton Downtown Arts Initiative. At the core of the initiative is the emphasis on arts partnerships and collaboration and their role in shaping the Rock Hill community. With new funding, we will be able to bring diverse audiences to new and existing venues,” said Tom Stanley, chair of the Department of Fine Arts at Winthrop.

The project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by Clinton Junior College and the patrons of the Winthrop University Galleries, with special support from Robert Breakfield and Jo Sherrill Dickert.