

Sentinel & Enterprise

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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GIFT

FSU music education gets boost

Staff Report

FITCHBURG » A major bequest to Fitchburg State University will support music education and help prospective music teachers pursue their professional and artistic goals, according to an announcement from the university.

The Helen E. Hornsey Music Education fund will benefit all aspects of music education at Fitchburg State, including individual and community lessons and music education that develops excellence in teaching and creative practice among teachers and

MUSIC » 6A

Music

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community workers in the discipline of music, the university said in a press release about the bequest.

Helen Hornsey died on April 30, 2021, at the age of 106. Born in Brookline in 1914, Hornsey had a lifelong love of music. She studied at the Juilliard Music School in New York City and was an avid singer and pianist. She was

also devoted to helping others and reached the rank of lieutenant colonel with the Salvation Army in her adopted community of Fitchburg.

The Hornsey Music Education Fund was created to ensure private instruction is available for students, faculty, alumni and community members, and tomorrow's music teachers have expansive knowledge with which to guide their students.

The fund will provide support for music lessons

for promising band members and tuition assistance to students participating in the music education concentration.

The fund will offset costs for performances on campus and help students to:

- Develop advanced skills in teaching, particularly in the areas of pedagogical practice, music technologies and performance

- Enhance content knowledge in the student's field of licensure

- Obtain skills and certification necessary to seek a student's professional licensure through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

"We are honored and gratified to accept this generous gift from the Hornsey estate, and know it will have a positive impact on generations of music students," Fitchburg State President Richard Lapidus said. "Her gift will endure and support music education for years to come."

FITCHBURG

‘Bringing new life to downtown’

ReImagine North of Main receives \$417G for efforts to revitalize

Submitted Article

FITCHBURG » ReImagine North of Main, the collaborative project designed to revitalize a key section of Fitchburg, was the recipient of a \$417,270 Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant from the Baker-Polito administration, according to an announcement from Fitchburg State University.

GRANT » 4A

Grant

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The ReImagine North of Main partnership includes the city of Fitchburg, Fitchburg State University, NewVue Communities CDC, Fitchburg Art Museum, the North Central Massachusetts Development Corp., and the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency’s TDI Partnership to reach the ever-growing small-business ecosystem in Fitchburg, according to the university.

With the new grant, the partners will focus on small business and entrepreneurship development and neighborhood and commercial district vibrancy as part of Fitchburg’s growing arts and culture economy in one of the most diverse, yet distressed, neighborhoods in North Central Massachusetts.

“We are proud to be partners in the innovative collaboration that is bringing new life to downtown Fitchburg,” said Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus.

ReImagine North of Main is headquartered in the university Theater Block on Main Street.

“This support from the Baker-Polito Administration is yet another investment that will create opportunities for entrepreneurs and raise the quality of life for the city and region,” Lapidus said.

The funding was among 65 grants totaling over \$20 million to 62 organizations through the program. In its inaugural award round, the Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program is supporting projects and program-

ming that are designed to respond to community-defined economic opportunities within eligible communities.

The competitive, one-year grants support applicants seeking to address issues in communities that have historically faced disproportionate challenges to economic growth. Additionally, to achieve the program’s equity goals, projects in locations that have experienced high rates of incarceration and widespread poverty, or are in communities composed of traditionally disadvantaged and underrepresented populations, were prioritized.

“Certain communities face unique challenges but also have the local assets and expertise to develop solutions,” Gov. Charlie Baker said. “By using this program to tap directly into those resources, we can position these trusted organizations for success in their efforts to strengthen their communities from within.”

“As the inaugural round of grant recipients demonstrates, the Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program is a powerful source of assistance to address a wide range of needs with specific solutions developed by community leaders, coalitions, and established organizations that are known to, and live among, the people and neighborhoods they serve,” Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said. “Through this grant program, we can harness that existing human capital and accelerate progress toward addressing those needs.”

The 62 grant recipients represent 17 communities from across the commonwealth with efforts fo-

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– Fitchburg State University President Richard Lapidus

cused on workforce development, small-business development, community health, high school dropout prevention and housing stabilization. Among the awardees, 26 are in Gateway Cities; 44 are self-identified minority-owned and/or woman-owned business enterprises; four are self-identified LGBTQ-owned business enterprises; and 15 are first-time vendors with the commonwealth.

“Leveraging the power of community-based organizations helps us sharpen our focus on fostering positive economic outcomes where they are needed the most,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “I want to congratulate all of this round’s recipients, especially the organizations we are partnering with for the first time, and I look forward to the results of these efforts to support economic growth, expand access to opportunities, and enhance equity among communities that for too long have been at a disadvantage.”

First passed into law in December 2020, the Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant Program involved the establishment of a Community Empowerment Board to inform application questions and evaluation criteria. As prescribed by law, the seven-member

Community Empowerment Board consists of individuals who belong to demographic groups that have been traditionally underrepresented and have historically been at social and economic disadvantages. The fiscal 2021 budget allowed these funds to be carried into fiscal 2022 and the fiscal 2022 budget further supported this program. Recognizing the value of this grant program, Baker’s fiscal 2023 budget proposal allocates \$7.5 million, which provides an equivalent level of funding allocated for the program in fiscal 2022.

“Investing in community-led efforts to promote economic growth is of paramount importance, especially as we recover from the damage done by COVID-19,” said Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano. “These Community Empowerment and Reinvestment grants will play a critical role in helping historically underserved communities across the Commonwealth continue to build back from the hardships brought on by the pandemic. I am proud of the work that we have done in the Legislature to appropriate funding for these grants in recent years, and I look forward to seeing these investments remain a priority for the House of Representatives.”

LOCAL NEWS

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FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM

DISCUSSING WAR ART



COURTESY OF THE FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM

The Fitchburg Art Museum will host 'Victory & Destruction: Interpreting Qes Admu Tesfaw's Visions of Battle' by Wheaton College Associate Professor of Museum Studies/History of Art Leah Niederstadt at 2 p.m. Sunday. Niederstadt is curator of the permanent collection at Wheaton College. Her talk will cover recent acquisitions of Ethiopian paintings of the Battle of Adwa to the Fitchburg Art Museum's collection. This program is presented by the museum in conjunction with Fitchburg State University's Center for Italian Culture and its series Confronting Italian Colonialism.