



The Saints Award Grants to Metro Chicago Performing Arts Groups

The Saints, Chicago's Volunteers for the Performing Arts, has announced that it is awarding \$52,964 in grants to 16 performing arts groups in the Chicago metropolitan area for 2018. The grants, ranging in amounts from \$2,200 to \$5,000, were awarded to theater, dance and music organizations for 2018 - 2019 projects. Over the last twenty-five years, the Saints have given over \$985,000 to many different performing arts groups, starting with a donations committee making random selections in 1995 and adapting over the years to the present grants process.

The grants will fund projects such as: unique costume design, puppetry, musical instruments, enhancement of performance spaces and the purchase of various kinds of technical equipment, to name a few. Evaluation criteria looked at the project description, financial viability and legal verification, collaboration among organizations, dedication to cultural and ethnic diversity and addressing underrepresented or physically challenged performers and audiences.

The selection process was undertaken by an all-volunteer grants commission that evaluated a total of 126 proposals. Current funding for the Saints Grants comes almost exclusively from the annual membership dues and donations of its members. Awardees range from relatively new companies to some well-known brand names in Chicago performing arts and are located throughout the Chicago area.





The more than 2,300 members of **The Saints: Volunteers for the Performing Arts** provide volunteer services for over 200 Chicago area performing arts organizations annually, along with financial support through our MatchGrants Program. Saints membership both provides an opportunity to personally support the arts in metro Chicago and see shows affordably by ushering.

The Saints will celebrate our grant recipients on Monday, June 18, at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, with a reception at 6 pm and the program beginning at 7 pm. The public is invited to this free event. Saints members are encouraged to attend.

More information is available at **saintschicago.org**.

The recipients of the 2018 Saints grants, in alphabetical order:

	<p>CHICAGO MOVING COMPANY</p> <p>A company that supports the development of contemporary dance and dancers will get a lighting system upgrade to support the Performance Project at Roscoe Village's Hamlin Park Theater, providing a dance space for local artists.</p>
	<p>FRIENDS OF THE GAMELAN</p> <p>Tracing its roots to the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, and with a mission to perform and teach traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, this company will get new instruments to continue their work.</p>
	<p>LAKEVIEW ORCHESTRA</p> <p>Founded only five short years ago, this volunteer orchestra will be able to impact their performance sound with new percussion instruments, including a snare drum, tambourine, and bass drum, for their new performance space at the Athenaeum Theatre mainstage.</p>
	<p>MANDALA SOUTH ASIAN PERFORMING ARTS</p> <p>This dance company connects audiences with the vibrancy, flavors, and colors of the performing arts traditions of South Asia. The Saints will help them tell The Story of Ram, at the Studebaker Theater, by funding the creation of shadow puppets and necessary props.</p>
	<p>MIDSOMMER FLIGHT</p> <p>A Chicago theatre company, dedicated to producing Shakespeare's plays that tour a new production to four parks over eight weeks each July and August, will be awarded funds for their Stage Weapons Armory to help them offer "Shakespeare for Everyone."</p>

	<p>NATYA DANCE THEATRE</p> <p>This company will be able to create new hand sewn dance costumes designed according to traditional standards of bharatanatyam, the dance theatre of India. With help from the Saints, they'll be ready for a fall premiere.</p>
	<p>NEW AMERICAN FOLK THEATRE</p> <p>This grant subsidizes authentic costuming in the style of the original Oz illustrations of John R. Neill and fantasy puppetry for a play that looks at racial and gender identity, PTSD, and other issues that people face today, set in the Land Land of Oz, the setting of America's first fairy tale.</p>
	<p>THE NEWBERRY CONSORT</p> <p>A music editing hardware/software upgrade will be used by this company for a holiday program of sacred and secular Christmas music from colonial Mexico and publication of a modern performance edition of a set of unique choir books prepared by the nuns of the Convento de la Encarnación (Mexico City) during the 17th and 18th centuries.</p>
	<p>PIVEN THEATRE WORKSHOP</p> <p>New pipe and drape curtains for an Evanston theatre with over forty years of an ensemble based, community-oriented approach to theatre training and performance will assist in providing more years to encourage creative expression.</p>
	<p>PUERTO RICAN ARTS ALLIANCE</p> <p>An organization dedicated to preserving Puerto Rican culture by maintaining traditions, showcasing Puerto Rican arts and music, and providing arts education programming will get brand new chairs and lighting for their Avondale community space.</p>
	<p>A RED ORCHID THEATRE</p> <p>This Old Town theatre company is getting new sound equipment that will allow their designers to be more creative and enhance their storytelling as they present new plays from all over the world.</p>



ROUGH HOUSE THEATER COMPANY

The Saints support this company by funding puppet materials and environmental design, for a creative use of puppetry and set, as *Harrow House* immerses audiences in the nightmarish world of an architect whose obsessive pursuit of utopia has gone awry.



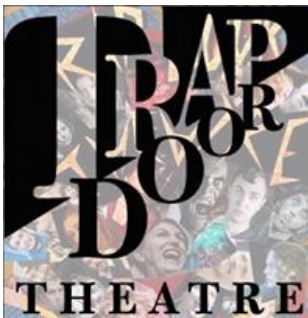
THE RUTH PAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The funding for this project will be used for material in the complete replacement of the Cyclorama (Cyc) and Scrim for a Gold Coast center that believes in developing the next generation of professional dance artists.



SOUTH HOLLAND MASTER CHORALE

New Tourmaster Risers and safety railings will enable this 100+ diverse member suburban chorale to perform their concerts in churches throughout the Chicago suburbs and Northwest Indiana at no charge to the public - without fear of falling.



TRAP DOOR PRODUCTIONS

This company, celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary of bringing European theatre to Chicago, will be able to cover the cost of a projector, screen, and wireless microphones - increasingly essential tools for further productions of avant-garde theatre.



WATER PEOPLE THEATER

A theater company whose name comes from the Venezuelan ethnic Yekuana and means People on River Who Open Roads In The Water, will get their funding for translation, subtitles and props for a production of *Musas* – *Muses* depicting an encounter between two icons of contemporary art: Mexican painter Frida Kahlo and the American born writer Sylvia Plath.