

https://www.bristolpress.com/news/first-bristol-artists-recieve-grants-from-louise-lauretano-demars-fund/article_444bdc40-102c-4d57-b717-d079e4b6102e.html

FEATURED

First Bristol artists recieve grants from Louise Lauretano DeMars fund

BRIAN M. JOHNSON @brianjohnsonBP
May 20, 2025



Nigel Wynter and Marlo Marrero received the inaugural grants from the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund.
Contributed

BRISTOL - Two Bristol-based artists Saturday recieved the inaugural grants from the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund, the Main Street Community Foundation announced.

More than 40 people were on hand to view the artwork of Marlo Marrero and Nigel Wynter at a grant reception held at the Bristol Bazaar, an indoor “maker’s market” that promotes local artists.

The fund was established in memory of Louise Lauretano DeMars.

DeMars, who died in Jan. 2023, was a former director of the Carousel Museum and shined a spotlight on local artists through an annual “ACE” awards gala.

“Marlo Marrero and Nigel Wynter each received \$5,000 to further their artistic growth while honoring Louise’s legacy,” said Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation.

Marrero is a trained artist in multiple mediums and co-owns Creative Jam Art Co. in Bristol. She will use this grant to improve her water marbling technique through participation in workshops.

“These workshops will allow me to explore old techniques and challenge my approach to abstract watercolors,” she said. “I’m excited to experiment with traditional methods and perspectives, literally and figuratively turning my art upside down.”

Wynter is an established artist who is dedicated to fine art and illustration. His primary media are watercolor, acrylics, and oils created in a realistic style.

He used the awarded funds to study with and be mentored by like-minded professionals through the Created to Thrive Mentoring program.

“It is truly an honor for me to be one of the first recipients of this grant award,” he said. “Being a lifelong learner, I believe that there are many more paths for me to explore and be inspired as I seek to expand my network within the creative community.”

The Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund was established by bequest upon DeMars’ death. The Fund supports Bristol-area artists through stipends to help “further their creativity, explore their talent, or expand their learning.”

“Louise was a visionary and strong advocate for the arts and I know she would love to see the growing arts and culture community in our region,” said Susan Sadecki, President & CEO of Main Street Community Foundation. “With Louise’s establishment of this permanent endowment, Main Street Community Foundation will continue her legacy and honor the contributions she made throughout our state.”

The next grant cycle for the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund at MSCF will open Oct. 1. Requests will be limited to proposals for fine arts and graphic arts from established artists who reside in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

To learn more about the application process, guidelines, and eligibility criteria, visit mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant or email Kate Kerchaert, director of grants & programs, at kate@mainstreetfoundation.org or call her at 860-583-6363, EXT. 152.

[Learn more about your privacy options](#)