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Main Street Community Foundation



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Louise Lauretano DeMars | Main Street Community Foundation

POSTED BY: LAURA BAILEY DECEMBER 20, 2025

The Main Street Community Foundation has awarded a total of \$13,025 in grants to three Bristol-based artists through its second grant cycle for the Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund. The grants are designed to support local artists in advancing their work and furthering their artistic growth.

Lisa Corson, a mixed-media fiber artist, received \$2,025 to help fund her transition into pottery. The grant will allow Corson to attend workshops and expand her creative practice. Tina Fusco, an acrylic painter, was awarded \$1,000 to purchase supplies as she shifts her business to an inventory-based model. Josh Therriault, a filmmaker, received a \$10,000 grant to cover film festival submission

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Waterbury artist Francis Hines, whose artwork was discovered in a dumpster and later reclaimed.

The Louise Lauretano DeMars Love of Art Fund was established in 2023 following the passing of Louise Lauretano DeMars, a long-time advocate for the arts. The fund supports artists in the Bristol area, providing stipends to help them explore new techniques, expand their knowledge, or further their creative endeavors. Lauretano DeMars, who was a key figure in numerous arts organizations, was passionate about fostering artistic talent and the fund continues her legacy.

To date, the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded \$23,025 from the fund to five local artists. The next application cycle for the Love of Art Fund will open in the fall of 2026. The grants are available to established artists who reside in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

For more information on the application process and eligibility criteria, visit www.mainstreetfoundation.org/apply-for-grant or contact Whitney Shufelt, director of grants and programs, at whitney@mainstreetfoundation.org or 860-583-6363 ext. 152.

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