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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2016 MicroGrants Further Creative Works, Performances and Professional Development for Regional Artists

(Durango, CO) -- The Durango Arts Center (DAC) is delighted to announce the recipients of the 2016 MicroGrants provided by the Durango Arts Center. Since 2014, DAC MicroGrants distributes ten grants totaling \$5000 to regional artists, serving as a catalyst to further their work while living and working in rural Southwestern communities. Members and non-members of DAC are eligible to apply for MicroGrants. In an effort to decentralize visual authority and support a diplomatic review process, DAC engages local community members to evaluate applications and award MicroGrants each year.

At the \$1000 level, two grants were awarded to 20MOONS and Six Dollar String Band. 20MOONS is a contemporary dance theatre company established in 2012 and located in Durango. 20MOONS will use their MicroGrant to support their spring production, *Human Nature Machine*, taking place in mid-March at The Vallecito Room in the Fort Lewis College student union building. Also based in Durango and widely regarded for their tight, driving and passionate sound, Six Dollar String Band captures the exuberant, communal, and unifying spirit inherent in Old Time music. Six Dollar String Band plans to use their MicroGrant to produce a vinyl pressing of a new album to be released later this year.

Four grants were awarded at the \$500 level. Dan Groth (Durango, CO) will use his MicroGrant to expand his artistic horizons by working one-on-one on a new body of work with a master printmaker. Jeff Madeen (Durango, CO) will use his MicroGrant to offset expenses incurred in preparation for his solo exhibit, *Obedience, Conformity, Apathy... "It's All Good!"* which opened on February 26 at the Durango Arts Center. Utilizing her MicroGrant to purchase a new set of larger kiln shelves, Cynthia McDowell (La Plata, NM) can increase the efficiency of her ceramics kiln and studio production. Kayla Shaggy (Bloomfield, NM) will use her MicroGrant to produce and distribute an original zine about monsters.

At the \$250 level, four MicroGrants were also awarded. Tricia Gourley (Durango, CO) will utilize a DAC MicroGrant towards professional development, attending a number of workshops to deepen her work in Shabori and textiles. A MicroGrant awarded to Della Greer (Durango, CO) will support the purchase of equipment necessary to document, as well as promote her artwork. Gretchen Magwitz (Durango, CO) will advance her art through professional documentation and establishment of a website using her MicroGrant. Shan Wells (Durango, CO) will use his MicroGrant to support the writing and illustration of his graphic novel, *Fossils of the Early Snow*.

DAC seeks to engage local artists and deepen artistic diversity within Durango and our surrounding communities. No matter how ambitious or humble the proposal, MicroGrants aims to support innovation, creative development and maintain momentum in artistic careers. The 2017 application cycle will open in late 2016. For questions please contact Cristie Scott, Executive Director, at [cristie@durangoarts.org](mailto:cristie@durangoarts.org).

DAC MicroGrants is made possible by numerous individual donors.

For a full list of 2016 MicroGrant awardees and more information about the artists, including links to their websites please visit, [DurangoArts.org/microgrants](http://DurangoArts.org/microgrants).

**ABOUT DAC**

DAC is a multi-faceted hub for community arts that hosts and promotes contemporary visual and performing arts, arts education, dynamics exhibits, an active Docent program and the annual Durango Autumn Arts Festival. Over the years, DAC has built its reputation as a local arts industry leader and has been working diligently to ensure that the arts continue to thrive in the Four Corners region and beyond. <http://durangoarts.org>.