

For Immediate Release
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Knight Foundation Announces Funding Award to COCA for the Arts on Gaines Project

Tallahassee, FL – The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has awarded a grant in the amount of \$375,000 to the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) of Tallahassee and Leon County for the pre-development stage of the Arts on Gaines Project.

Mike Pate, the Knight Foundation's Program Director for Tallahassee, was on hand for the announcement Tuesday morning during a press conference on the 22nd floor of the Capitol. The announcement was made by Margo Bindhardt, the citizen chair for the Arts on Gaines project.

The Arts on Gaines will be a mixed-use development containing an arts incubator/support space shared by over forty organizations, as well as affordable artist live/work housing, and a retail component to include shops and restaurants. Anchor tenants will include the Boys Choir of Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Ballet, and COCA.

COCA has also been recommended for a Challenge Grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs for this project. The Challenge Grant budget is currently awaiting legislative approval.

Peggy Brady, COCA's Executive Director commented, "We believe the Arts on Gaines is the very definition of a Knight Foundation transformational project. COCA would like to thank them for recognizing the potential of the Arts on Gaines to cultivate new and growing creative businesses while addressing the city's critical need for affordable housing as well as establishing an 18 hour destination for citizens and visitors on Gaines Street, all in one project".

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The Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) is officially designated as the local arts agency for Tallahassee and Leon County by the city, the county, and the state, and will soon be marking its 25th year of service to the community.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes journalism excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of the communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Tallahassee is one of 26 Knight Communities in the United States.

Artspace Projects is America's leading nonprofit real estate developer for the arts. Artspace has completed 21 projects in thirteen states. Its mission is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.

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