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For Immediate Release

Applications Now Open for the 2019 Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards

\$25K matching grants will bring free concerts to small to mid-sized towns and cities



LOS ANGELES—Calling all small to mid-sized towns and cities across America: show us how you'll transform an underused public space through the power of free, live music!

Now in its fifth year, the **Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards** is an **exciting matching grant opportunity** created by the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, a pioneer in the creative placemaking movement. Up to 15 nonprofits serving small to mid-sized towns and cities will receive **\$25K each in matching funds** to produce their own Levitt AMP [Your City] Music Series—an outdoor, free concert series featuring a

diverse lineup of high caliber entertainment. And just like in previous years, **the public will decide the Top 25 finalists** through an online voting process taking place this November. So get ready to rally your family, friends, colleagues and neighbors to vote and bring free, live music to your community!

"We're thrilled to once again bring the joy of Levitt to more towns and cities across America," says Sharon Yazowski, executive director of the Levitt Foundation. "Levitt concerts create a shared sense of community and connectedness that is incredibly important in today's world. We've seen how past Levitt AMP winners are making a meaningful impact across America, bringing people together of all ages and backgrounds and reinvigorating underused public spaces."

The Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards is an annual creative placemaking grants competition to activate underused public spaces through free concerts. Since 2015, the Levitt Foundation has awarded \$1.4 million total to 29 communities across America through the Levitt AMP grant program. The acronym "AMP" speaks to the goals of the program:

- **Amplify** community pride and the city's unique character
- Enrich lives through the power of free, live **Music**
- Illustrate the importance of vibrant public **Places**

While Levitt's celebrated program of permanent outdoor music venues, each presenting 50+ free concerts annually, is tailored to large metro areas with populations of over 400,000 (due to financial sustainability and audience development considerations), the Levitt AMP [Your City]

Grant Awards are specifically designed to meet the needs and capacity of small to mid-sized towns and cities, with each Levitt AMP winner presenting 10 free outdoor concerts.

2018 winners include eleven returning Levitt AMP grantees*, and four new grantees:

- Berea Arts Council**, Berea, KY*
- Brewery Arts Center**, Carson City, NV*
- Jazzanooga**, Chattanooga, TN*
- The California Center for the Arts**, Escondido, CA
- Galva Arts Council**, Galva, IL
- Discover Downtown Middlesboro Inc.**, Middlesboro, KY*
- Marion Cultural Alliance**, Ocala, FL*
- AMP Concerts**, Santa Fe, NM*
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center**, Sheboygan, WI*
- Catamount Arts**, St. Johnsbury, VT*
- Create Portage County**, Stevens Point, WI*
- Trenton Downtown Association**, Trenton, NJ*
- Cowan Community Center**, Whitesburg, KY
- NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley**, Woonsocket, RI
- Utica Monday Nite**, Utica, NY*

Past winners are eligible to reapply for a 2019 Levitt AMP grant.

Since these are matching grants, each applicant must secure a dollar for dollar match of \$25K from other sources such as foundations, businesses, municipalities, individual donors, etc. Up to half of the matching requirement may be in-kind, such as donated sound equipment or contributed marketing. Yazowski says the matching grant requirement reflects the Foundation's overall commitment that Levitt projects be "community-driven with local support."

In addition to the monetary award, Levitt AMP grant recipients receive the Levitt AMP Toolkit containing valuable resources to help them effectively produce their concert series.

The most competitive submissions will depend upon a variety of factors, including:

- The characteristics of the public space where the free concert series is to be presented— preference will be given to spaces that are easily accessible to a range of socioeconomic groups.
- A programming philosophy that is inclusive, family-friendly and represents a wide range of music genres.
- Outreach strategies that are inclusive of all members of the community.
- A proven track record presenting professional quality concerts or community events, or partnering with an individual or organization that has done so.

Online applications are due September 25. Learn more and view the 2018 Levitt AMP Music Series, currently underway: levittamp.org.

Online public voting will determine the Top 25 finalists in November. The Levitt Foundation will then review the Top 25 applications in December and the 2019 Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards winners will be announced December 18, 2018.

About the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation

The Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation is a private foundation that exists to strengthen the social fabric of America. Through its support of creative placemaking, the Levitt Foundation empowers communities to transform underused public spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life.

The Foundation's primary funding areas include **permanent Levitt venues** and the **Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards**, an annual grants competition. During the past decade, the Foundation has awarded more than \$20 million in grants to support access to free, high caliber live music experiences while bringing new life to underused public spaces.

The Levitt network of permanent outdoor music venues, AMP concert sites, the Levitt National Tour and select outreach concerts collectively serve more than 700,000 people annually through **nearly 500 free, family-friendly concerts in 26 towns and cities**. As an example of the high caliber talent presented across the Levitt network, the 2018 GRAMMY nominees included 15 artists who have performed on Levitt stages in recent years.

Permanent Levitt venues are located in cities as diverse as **Los Angeles; Westport, Conn.; Denver; Bethlehem, Pa.; Memphis;** and **Arlington, Texas**. Each permanent Levitt venue is programmed, managed and supported by its own 501(c)(3) Friends of Levitt nonprofit organization, presenting 50+ free concerts every year featuring acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning performers in all music genres. Due to accelerating interest from cities and engaged citizens, the permanent Levitt venue program is growing. Developing Levitt locations across the country include **Dayton, Ohio** (opening August 2018), **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** (opening 2019) and **Houston** (opening 2021), amongst other cities. Learn more: <http://www.levitt.org>.