

## Arts & Education Council grants \$120,000 to help heal trauma in St. Louis through the arts



A dozen organizations in the St. Louis region that use the arts to help people deal with trauma will share \$120,000 in grants from the Arts & Education Council.

Recipients include [Prison Performing Arts](#), [Intercultural Music Initiative](#) and [St. Louis Artworks](#).

"These populations that they're serving have dealt with a lot of trauma from various places. And you have to take unconventional paths to healing," said Jessireé Jenkins, grant and program manager at Arts & Education Council. "And many of these organizations have figured out how to do that."

The grant-maker distributed \$115,000 in the first year of its [Arts and Healing Initiative](#), last year. The organization has funding for three more rounds of annual grants to similar groups.

The latest grant recipients also include [St. Louis Classical Guitar](#), a nonprofit organization that provides music education to students in St. Louis, Jennings, [Hazelwood](#) and the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

The Arts & Education Council funding will support a new, 15-week program designed for young adults dealing with substance abuse, including teens who have recently been released from Clayton Juvenile Detention Center.

Participants will learn to build and play their own guitars, St. Louis Classical Guitar Executive Director Travis Lewis said.

"It promotes mastery and accomplishment," Lewis said. "For a lot of kids who end up in the system, they haven't had the opportunity to see something through to completion and actually have that work presented to the public."