

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Nonprofit, cARTie Receives Funding Toward Reimagining the Museum Experience

Shelton, CT — cARTie, which aims to be Connecticut’s first (and only!) mobile museum serving students across our state, has received a generous gift of \$20,000 from The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust toward the purchasing of its school-bus-turned-mobile-museum. With this, cARTie is one step closer to getting on the road for the 2021-2022 school year, showcasing art by a diverse group of high schoolers representing Connecticut and reaching elementary school students with limited access to the arts across the state. This anticipated launch would not be possible without the support of the Trust: "We are so grateful for Mr. Orenstein, trustee of The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust, for his faith in our mission and vision, and we are optimistic about realizing commitments from more funding sources to meet our goal launch date" says Co-Founder and Executive Director, Clare Murray.

cARTie connected with The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust over their mutual roots in Weston, CT, but together they aim to positively impact the educational opportunities of children across the state. Mr. Offutt was born in Oakland, Maryland on August 4, 1931, and made his home on Kettle Creek Road in Weston for more than 30 years in a house he built himself. Mr. Offut has been described as “metal sculptor, wood worker, farmer, fixer of anything, collector of everything and a good friend.” His interests were many including education and outreach through the arts in Fairfield County and beyond. Trustee, Mr. Orenstein, adds: “Dan often thought out of the box and cARTie's plan certainly represents a new approach to art education. Dan was also an artist creating art in a multitude of various forms. He would have loved the cARTie idea and would also have enjoyed seeding the program.”

cARTie is a ‘reimagined museum’ that brings the museum field trip to schools; it deconstructs the traditional White, eurocentric model of what an art museum is by making sure all Connecticut youth see themselves represented in the works of art on display, featured artists, and experiences they have while visiting. cARTie activities are two-fold: (1) to offer inclusive internship and exhibition opportunities to a diverse population of high school arts students and (2) to provide critical museum-based learning opportunities that enrich and deepen early education, while meeting core standards, to (Pre)K-2 students who otherwise may not have access to robust arts programming. cARTie has already secured verbal commitments to bring its mobile museum to 13 (and counting!) elementary schools, but securing the necessary funding to complete the school-bus retrofit remains a priority.

Currently, cARTie is calling on all Connecticut high school students to submit artwork for the second annual exhibition. This year students are asked to reflect on what it means to be a child during the pandemic. Simply by submitting, students are eligible to win one of five \$100 gift cards to purchase art supplies. Students can apply [HERE](#).

To learn more about cARTie and donate please visit www.cartie.org. Follow cARTie on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @CTcARTie!

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