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cARTie Receives \$130,000 Gift from The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust and Names Founding Sponsor

Shelton, CT — Young children across Connecticut will benefit from expansions of cARTie, Connecticut’s new non-profit mobile art museum, thanks to a major gift from The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust. This \$130,000 gift from the Trust will be used toward internal capacity building starting in 2022, including the hiring of a professional staff, office space, and professional development workshops that cover cultural equity, digital storytelling, and fund development, among other key areas of arts equity non-profit work.

“This grant moves cARTie forward with exciting momentum. It not only catapults us into our second year of programming, but it also enables us to professionalize our organization, attract increasingly more attention, and build the scaffolding so necessary to deepen our non-profit mobile art museum’s long-term sustainability and longevity,” said Clare Murray, Co-Founder and Executive Director of cARTie. “We are fortunate the Trust believes so devoutly in our mission and that our first year of elementary school museum visits are proving so positive and impactful. It is both humbling and empowering to feature the Trust as cARTie’s Founding Sponsor, and to carry on the legacy of Daniel E. Offutt III.”

cARTie received a \$20,000 gift from The Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust in 2021 toward the purchase and retrofit of the organization’s museum bus. Additional support from local foundations, philanthropists, government agencies, and individuals helped bring the museum bus to life. Since the beginning of October, cARTie has visited more than 500 PreK-2 students across the state. Principal, teacher, and student feedback from the partner pilot schools highlight a certain appreciation and enthusiasm for “learning to feel comfortable in museums” and “building a toolkit of skills to use in and out of museums to think critically.”

Going into 2022, cARTie will continue to bridge inequities in education and arts access across the state by building its network and implementing and evaluating its rigorously-researched curriculum. Programming is expected to more than double, with increased school partnerships, afterschool programming opportunities, summer camp opportunities, and other events like birthday parties and town festivals. Internal capacity building made possible by this grant will propel cARTie in these expansions.

As cARTie’s Founding Sponsor, The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust celebrates the value of the arts in education across Connecticut. Mr. Offutt made his home in Weston, CT for more than 30 years in a house he built himself. Mr. Offutt 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. Richard Orenstein, Trustee, 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.”

About cARTie

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 PreK-2 students who otherwise may not have access to robust arts programming. To learn more about cARTie, please visit www.cartie.org. Follow cARTie on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @CTcARTie!

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[PHOTO ATTACHED]

The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust is named the Founding Sponsor of cARTie, Connecticut's non-profit mobile art museum bridging inequities in education and arts access across the state.