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**Valley Arts and Entertainment, Inc.** receives a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts for funding to support guest presenter Christian Kofi Mawuko, who will conduct a Music Wellness Project.

**Huntsville, Ala. – Valley Arts and Entertainment, Inc.** has received a \$1,000 grant from the <u>Alabama State Council on the Arts</u> to fund a music therapy clinic to promote evidence-based benefits that improve mood, personal growth, manage stress, and address a wide range of emotional, cognitive and social needs.

With these funds, **Valley Arts** invites the community, kids and families who reside at its community partner, Huntsville Housing Authority (HHA) and USI. This grant signifies that through this project; **Valley Arts** is making Alabama's communities stronger and our state's arts and culture sector more vibrant.

"As the executive director of this organization, this grant has made it possible to connect people across the community. . . Patrice Bivins."

At no cost to the community, a music therapy clinic will take place on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 11am to 1pm in the Community Room, 212 Seminole Drive, Huntsville, AL. Due to limited space, we recommend RSVP at (256) 532-5630 by July 16th. Refreshments will be provided by Food City Grocery Store located at 3608 Governors Drive Northwest.

Christian Kofi Mawuko, who prefers to be called Mawuko will conduct the clinic. He is a native of Ghana, West Africa, where he began learning traditional rhythms and playing drums at the age of 10. Mawuko has been featured on PBS nationwide, as well as featured in several magazines and television programs across Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Other upcoming opportunities for the community include **Valley Arts** after-school program piano and violin starting in late August and our annual women in jazz festival also later this fall. More information can be found on our website www.valleyartsandentertainment.org.

This grant, awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts, enables **Valley Arts** to reach new audiences, foster community development, provide the highest quality programming, and demonstrate the importance of arts as a key component for quality of life in Alabama.

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## About Valley Arts and Entertainment, Inc.

Through music Valley Arts and Entertainment provides dynamic musical programming and services designed to engage and promote the careers of emerging and established artists. We provide meaningful encounters of musical excellence by partnering with schools and other

community organizations to underserved multi-generational audiences. Learn more at www.valleyartsandentertainment.org

## **About Alabama State Council on the Arts**

The Council on the Arts is the official state agency for the support and development of the arts in Alabama. The Council works to expand and preserve the state's cultural resources by supporting nonprofit arts organizations, schools, colleges, units of local government, and individual artists. Arts programs, assisted by Council grants, have a track record of enhancing community development, education, cultural tourism, and overall quality of life in all regions of the state. Alabama State Council on the Arts grants are made possible by an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and additional funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Learn more at <a href="arts.alabama.gov">arts.alabama.gov</a>.