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For Immediate Release

Winners Announced for the 2019 Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards

*\$25K matching grants will bring free outdoor concerts to
18 small- to mid-sized towns and cities across America*

December 18, 2018—Today, the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation awarded \$450,000 in matching grants to 18 nonprofits serving small- to mid-sized towns and cities across America to produce free outdoor concerts as part of the fifth annual **Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards**. Reflecting the Levitt Foundation's commitment to creative placemaking projects generating community support, the Levitt Foundation once again opened the Levitt AMP selection process to the public to choose the top 25 finalists.

In June, the Levitt Foundation invited nonprofits to submit proposals that would reflect the three goals of the Levitt AMP awards: **Amplify** community pride and the city's unique character; enrich lives through the power of free, live **Music**; and illustrate the importance of vibrant public **Places**. Nonprofits that received a Levitt AMP grant in previous years were eligible to reapply.

The public voted on the submitted proposals over a three-week period in November, selecting their favorite projects online at <http://levittamp.org>.

"We are thrilled to announce the 2019 Levitt AMP Grant Awards winners, and express our appreciation to everyone who voted online to choose the finalists," says Sharon Yazowski, Executive Director of the Levitt Foundation. "Each of the winners makes a compelling case for how the power of free, live music will strengthen the social and economic fibers of their communities while creating welcoming outdoor destinations in their town or city."

The 18 Levitt AMP winners hail from rural towns with populations of less than 5,000 like Earlham, Iowa; Soldotna, Alaska; and Whitesburg, Ky.; to mid-sized cities like Carson City, Nev.; Stevens Point, Wis.; and Woonsocket, R.I.; to larger cities spanning the country including Chattanooga, Tenn.; Santa Fe, N.M.; and Trenton, N.J. Each winner will present 10 free concerts featuring a diverse lineup of high-caliber entertainment as part of the Levitt AMP Music Series, for a total of 180 free Levitt AMP concerts across the U.S. in 2019.

Below is the full list of this year's Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards winners (in alphabetical order):

** Previous Levitt AMP winner*

Berea, Kentucky* (population: 15,597)

The Berea Arts Council will present the third Levitt AMP Berea Music Series, infusing vibrancy and inclusivity into the city's Old Town Artisan Village while reenergizing a historic cultural district in the heart of Berea through multi-layered arts experiences. The 2019 series will continue to fuel Old Town's economic recovery into a welcoming hub for art, food, and community gatherings.

Carson City, Nevada* (population: 54,745)

The Levitt AMP Carson City Music Series presented by the Brewery Arts Center will return for the fourth year to enliven the Minnesota Street Stage—a once abandoned street corridor that becomes a thriving cultural destination through the free concerts. The upcoming Levitt AMP series will deepen activation of the space, further solidifying the Brewery Arts Center's role in fostering community cohesion and pride during Levitt AMP concerts and beyond.

Chattanooga, Tennessee* (population: 179,139)

Jazzanooga will bring the third Levitt AMP Chattanooga Music Series to life on the Bessie Smith Cultural Center lawn in the historic Martin Luther King District, further energizing the area once considered a famed live music hub and center for African American community life. The 2019 series will further momentum to the ongoing community-wide effort to revitalize the area while celebrating its rich heritage.

Earlham, Iowa (population: 1,400)

The first Levitt AMP Earlham Music Series, presented by Earlham Chicks with Checks, marks an exciting new chapter in the community-driven effort to transform Earlham City Park into an ongoing vibrant music-filled community hub. The Levitt AMP Music Series will elevate and expand upon the existing Earlham Summer Music Series, creating new opportunities for residents of this rural town to connect, enliven an underused public space and experience high-caliber entertainment.

Galva, Illinois* (population: 2,503)

The Galva Arts Council will once again enliven Wiley Park through the second Levitt AMP Galva Music Series, further activating the large, underused green space into a dynamic hub for self-expression, connection and layered arts experiences set to free, live music from across the globe. The 2019 series aims to deepen community engagement and expand upon community partnerships, creating a weekly communal celebration of the best Galva has to offer.

Green Bay, Wisconsin (population: 105,116)

The first Levitt AMP Green Bay Music Series will be presented by On Broadway, Inc. in Leicht Memorial Park, an underused riverfront park in the heart of Green Bay's downtown area. The upcoming series aims to create a welcoming, community-wide destination for concertgoers of all ages and backgrounds to come together and enjoy a lively and eclectic lineup of music that reflects and celebrates the city's increasingly rich diversity.

Ocala, Florida* (population: 59,110)

Marion Cultural Alliance will present the third Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series on the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreational Complex's once forgotten three-acre green Webb Field. The 2019 series will further activate this underused West Ocala Historic District landmark, building upon new momentum to create a vibrant gathering place that inspires a community-wide commitment to making art and culture accessible to all residents during and beyond the series.

Santa Fe, New Mexico* (population: 83,776)

The nonprofit AMP Concerts will present the third Levitt AMP Santa Fe Music Series at The Santa Fe Railyard Plaza, deepening community engagement to provide a powerful weekly celebration of Santa Fe's past, present and future through free, live music. The 2019 series will continue to elevate and expand upon the range of talent presented, creating a vibrant point of pride for Santa Fe residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Soldotna, Alaska (population: 4,659)

Vision Soldotna will present the first Levitt AMP Soldotna Music Series in Soldotna Creek Park on the banks of the Kenai River, celebrating the community-driven effort to transform a maintenance yard into a welcoming space for locals and visitors. The Levitt AMP Music Series will elevate and diversify the existing Music in the Park Series, bringing the community together to enjoy high-caliber talent while energizing the beautiful green space they have created.

Springfield, Illinois (population: 114,868)

The first Levitt AMP Springfield Music Series will be presented by the Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation to breathe new life into a large, vacant lot in Springfield's historic business district where President Abraham Lincoln delivered his historic "House Divided" speech. The series aims to reignite civic engagement and pride, while bringing residents together to envision the future direction for a space that has lacked activation since 1978.

St. Johnsbury, Vermont* (population: 7,209)

Catamount Arts will present the third Levitt AMP St. Johnsbury Music Series on Dog Mountain, a breathtaking 150-acre, dog-friendly destination in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom Rural Enterprise Assistance Project Zone. The 2019 series will continue to re-animate this former industrial area, bringing together "St. Jay" residents of all walks of life to enjoy diverse arts programming, drive economic activity and support the growth of a sustainable, year-round local creative economy.

Stevens Point, Wisconsin* (population: 26,293)

CREATE Portage County will present the third Levitt AMP Stevens Point Music Series in Piffner Park along the Wisconsin River, fostering a deeper sense of neighborhood identity and further illustrating the power of creative placemaking to strengthen a community's social and economic fabric. The 2019 series will empower residents of all ages and backgrounds to come together and shape the future direction of the downtown and riverfront while enjoying free, live music.

Utica, New York* (population: 60,652)

The Levitt AMP Utica Music Series presented by Utica Monday Nite will return to Kopernik Park in Oneida Square for the fourth year, expanding community engagement through layered arts experiences and deepening partnerships with underserved refugee communities. The upcoming series will continue to build a stronger, more unified community while inspiring further investment in the park and surrounding area.

Whitesburg, Kentucky* (population: 1,914)

The Cowan Community Center will present the second Levitt AMP Whitesburg Music Series on the Mountain Heritage Festival Stage, further revitalizing the community's downtown core through inclusive, high-quality arts experiences. The upcoming series will continue to transform the site of a former railroad yard and shuttered high school into a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can see, celebrate, and participate in the community as one.

Woonsocket, Rhode Island* (population: 41,759)

NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley will bring the second Levitt AMP Woonsocket Music Series to life in River Island Art Park, continuing to reinvigorate the scenic, once bustling public gathering place in the heart of the city through engaging, family-friendly concerts. The 2019 series will continue to serve as a cultural, community, and economic catalyst for the city—bringing residents

and local businesses together to celebrate and strengthen Woonsocket's downtown area.

Multi-Year Grant Recipients (3-year funding)

Due to the tremendous impact they have made in their communities during the past four years, previous Levitt AMP winners Main Street Middlesboro, John Michael Kohler Arts Center and Trenton Downtown Association have each been awarded multi-year funding to present the Levitt AMP Music Series in their cities for the next three years.

Middlesboro, Kentucky (population: 9,460)

Through the Levitt AMP Middlesboro Music Series, Main Street Middlesboro has transformed a gravel lot into a vibrant gathering space complete with a volunteer-installed lawn and donated permanent stage. The 2019 series will build upon this momentum, augmenting the community-driven revitalization of its downtown and positioning the series for a wider impact.

Sheboygan, Wisconsin (population: 48,329)

The Levitt AMP Sheboygan Music Series has sparked significant investment in the area while bringing people together downtown. The John Michael Kohler Arts Center will present the 2019 series in the city's new City Green—once the site of a vacant large retail store, now an energized green space complete with a permanent stage in the heart of the city's newly created Arts, Culture and Food District—celebrating this multi-year placemaking milestone.

Trenton, New Jersey (population: 84,064)

Trenton Downtown Association has made remarkable strides in strengthening the social and economic fabric of the state capital's historic downtown core through the Levitt AMP Trenton Music Series, bringing together a richly diverse community through the power of free live music, while creating a thriving cultural destination in the centrally located Mill Hill Park.

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 public spaces.

The Levitt network of permanent outdoor music venues and AMP concert sites collectively serves more than 750,000 people annually through 550+ free, family-friendly concerts in 26 towns and cities. As an example of the high-caliber talent presented across the Levitt network, the 2019 GRAMMY nominees include 17 artists who have performed on Levitt stages in recent years.

Permanent Levitt venues are located in cities as diverse as Los Angeles; Denver; Westport, Conn.; Dayton, Ohio; Bethlehem, Pa.; Memphis; and Arlington, Texas. Each permanent Levitt venue presents 50 free concerts every year and is programmed, managed and supported by its own 501(c)(3) Friends of Levitt nonprofit organization, with Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles run by the Foundation. Due to accelerating interest from cities and engaged citizens, the permanent Levitt venue program is growing. Developing Levitt locations across the country include Sioux Falls (opening 2019), amongst other cities. Learn more at <http://levitt.org>

