



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

CONTACT: Kathryn Sharbaugh, Director of Development

Flint Institute of Arts

P: 810.234.1695 E: ksharbaugh@flintarts.org

April 10, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS RECEIVES CAPITAL GRANT FROM CONSUMERS ENERGY FOUNDATION

Flint, MI – A \$50,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation will help the Flint Institute of Arts (FIA) purchase a tank furnace, the primary piece of equipment used for hot glass making in the Art School's new **Hot Shop**, opening on April 21, 2018.

Consumers Energy Foundation's funding contributes to a \$1 million capital campaign to equip the FIA's multi-million-dollar expansion project. The expansion includes a 11,000 sq. ft. Contemporary Craft Wing and 3,620 sq. ft. state-of-the-art, multipurpose glass arena—the **Hot Shop**—located in the FIA Art School. The Hot Shop offers technologically advanced systems and equipment for glass, ceramics, and metal working. Stadium-style seating and video monitors overlook the studio, allowing visitors to watch artists transform molten glass into creative works. Free public demonstrations will be held every Saturday. The FIA's longstanding emphasis on community learning and engagement will extend to studio classes in glassblowing, flameworking, sculpting, and metal casting.

"The Consumers Energy Foundation continues to enrich the communities it serves through grant making," said John Henry, Executive Director of the Flint Institute of Arts. "The Foundation's funding of the FIA's expansion project speaks to its dedication to arts and culture and its belief in the importance of capital support for our community's cultural institutions".

"One of the pillars of Consumers Energy is to leave our communities better than we found them and that could not be more evident in the grant to the Flint Institute of Arts," said Brandon Hofmeister, President of the Consumers Energy Foundation. "This grant will provide artists in the Flint area access to new state of the art equipment to expand their craft and introduce art to the next generation in the community."

The Consumers Energy Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Consumers Energy. It provides funding for a variety of areas including education, community, civic and cultural development, social services, the environment, and emerging issues. In 2017, the Foundation gave the largest gift—\$1 million—in its history to the Flint Promise, a scholarship program for high school graduates in the City of Flint. Other Michigan nonprofit organizations received more than \$17 million from Consumers Energy, its Foundation, employees, and retirees.

ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs. The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Fri 12-5 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun 1-5 p.m. Admission to the FIA is free to members and children under 12; Adults are \$10; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$8. Saturdays are free thanks to Huntington Bank. For more information, please visit www.flintarts.org.

For more information, please call 810.234.1695 or visit www.flintarts.org.