

Bernard J. Kleina
Bernard Kleina Photography

Debbie Venezia, Director
Arts DuPage
DuPage Foundation
3000 Woodcreek Dr, #310
Downers Grove, IL 60515-5408

July 21, 2020

Dear Director Venezia:

I am 84, a Civil Rights photographer since 1965, with thirty photographs in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C. However, because of the pandemic, I can barely pay my studio rent.

Arts DuPage informed me of the "Arts For Illinois Relief Fund" program. It also provided me with invaluable guidance and direction. Thanks to Arts DuPage, I will be receiving a check covering more than two months' rent within a few days.

But Arts DuPage does so much more. Artists love to know what other artists are doing. We want to know about the artists and festivals, and Arts DuPage makes that possible with its one-stop shopping website.

Arts DuPage informs by providing an attractive, well-designed and artist-friendly website; it gives expert guidance to artists like myself, who are unaccustomed to seeking advice, guidelines and direction; and it gives us encouragement to keep working, to keep struggling in the darkness of today's pandemic, believing that soon the sun will shine brightly once again. It is perhaps unique in its ability to show kindness, respect and give hope to those of us who strive daily to bring the realism and beauty of the world to life through our work.

In light of the above generosity of Arts DuPage, it still was unexpected that it would knock on a few doors on my behalf and have these doors suddenly swing open, resulting in my personal four-month photography exhibit at the Elmhurst Art Museum, beginning January 2021.

For these reasons, I am most grateful to you, Arts DuPage and its entire staff.

Cordially,

Bernard Kleina

