**LEVITT AMP BEREA GRANT AWARDS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

[Ali Blair: levittampberea@gmail.com]

11/01/2016— The Berea Arts Council, Berea College Entrepreneurship for the Public Good, City of Berea Tourism and First Friday Berea have partnered and are now in the running to win a grant for a 10 -12 week live music series during the Summer of 2017.

Sponsored by the Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation, a national foundation dedicated to strengthening the social fabric of America through free live music, the Berea partnership hopes to qualify as one of 15 winning organizations competing in the Levitt AMP Berea Grant Awards.

The Levitt AMP [Your City] Grant Awards are an exciting matching grant opportunity created by the Levitt Foundation to serve small to mid-sized towns and cities with populations up to 400,000. Up to fifteen nonprofits will receive $25,000 each in matching funds to produce their own Levitt AMP Music Series—an outdoor, free concert series featuring a diverse lineup of professional musicians.

The Berea Arts Council submitted the application. The proposed venue site is the “Old Town” Artisan Village Cabin Lawn. Berea’s proposal is now posted on the Levitt AMP website for public voting. <http://tinyurl.com/AMPBerea>

A successful campaign for Berea depends on community participation to get as many online votes as possible to bring the concert series to town. Community support, as measured by the number of online votes received, will be one of the key factors when the Levitt Foundation selects up to 15 winners.

Supporters are asked to visit <https://grant.levittamp.org/voter-registration-page/> to register and vote. **Online public voting is now open and** **ends November 21 at 8:00 p.m. EST.** The Top 25 finalists will be selected through online public voting. The Levitt Foundation will then review the proposals of these 25 finalists and will select up to 15 Levitt AMP winners, which will be announced on January 5, 2017.

”Art and specifically music, is seen as a communications bridge between differing worldviews and socio-demographics. The Levitt AMP Berea Music Series would offer an accessible, diverse cultural enrichment opportunity and serve to increase public awareness of and appreciation for the work of musicians as artists, helping Bereans reconnect with our roots, asserting the kinship of all people. When we meet together with a playful spirit, we are more likely to recognize our humanity during controversy.” - Levitt AMP Berea Grant Proposal

Berea Arts Council, Berea College EPG, Berea Tourism, and First Friday Berea ask supporters to start spreading the word to family, friends, colleagues and neighbors and rally the community to sign up and vote for Berea’s proposal.

Learn more at <http://levittamp.org>.