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For Immediate Release Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice Announces Mini-grants and Carlos Vega Social Justice Award

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is awarding nine mini-grants totaling \$8485 to organizations in the Holyoke area. This is the eighth year the Carlos Vega Fund has made mini-grants.

The 2019 awardees are: Don't Take That Receipt, Granby Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Home City Development Inc, Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, New Horizons Family Community Center Inc, OneHolyoke CDC, Plunge Arts, and The Care Center.

In addition to presenting the mini-grants, the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice will honor George Counter, former superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools, with the Carlos Vega Social Justice Award. The positions Mr. Counter took to support our children and families are as important today as they were 23 years ago. He stood up against racism, inequity and injustice. He was vocal, and he was brave. He went toe to toe with those in Boston and in positions of power to advocate in support of the students and families of Holyoke.

The awards will be presented on May 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot Street in Holyoke, home of the Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History. The public is invited to attend the event.

Carlos Vega was an ardent activist for civil rights, community-building, education, healthcare, and social justice in Holyoke. The donor designated fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, was started in 2010 to honor Carlos on his 60th birthday and to continue his forty-year legacy by awarding small grants to nonprofit organizations through an annual competitive process.

The mini-grants are awarded to initiatives that foster change and promote empowerment, self-help, and economic, political and social justice. The purpose of the mini-grants is to support efforts to address injustice, oppression, and poverty in the greater Holyoke area, particularly for those who are marginalized by our society.

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