



## COVID-19 ARTS IMPACT GRANT GUIDELINES NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

CNY Arts has made available a limited pot of funding for Arts Impact Grants that support nonprofit arts organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Three categories are available: Restart, Reopening, and Resiliency. Funds will be provided through a competitive peer panel regrant process administered by CNY Arts.

### Application Rolling Deadlines:

**Round I:** November 5, 2020 at 11:59 PM

**Round II:** November 23, 2020 at 11:59 PM

**Round I:** December 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM

**Who May Apply:** Nonprofit Arts Organizations (Individual Artists, see specific program guidelines)

**Eligible Counties:** Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, or Oswego

**Award Amount:** \$2,500 - \$10,000 (\*see grant request tab)

**Project Period:** 12 months starting on the date you are notified of your award.

**How to Apply:** All applications, in their entirety must be submitted online through [Submittable](http://Submittable.cnyarts.submittable.com) ([cnyarts.submittable.com](http://cnyarts.submittable.com)).

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In mid-March arts, culture, and heritage venues were closed in an effort to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This pandemic exposed the challenges of arts organizations and artists in the region including earned and unearned income and robust cash reserves. Combined with the fact that the arts are all about social gathering, our arts providers will be some of the hardest hit from the COVID pandemic.

CNY Arts Impact Grants are designed as a rapid response regrant program that will support Central New York and Mohawk Valley nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists as they recover from COVID-19 shutdowns and/or find innovative ways to deliver services and provide relevant and high-quality arts and culture to the community. Funds are raised by CNY Arts via individual, corporate, and philanthropic sources.

### REVIEW CRITERIA

Funding is limited; all applications must be in compliance with these published grant guidelines and will be evaluated and scored competitively based on the criteria listed below:

- 1) Qualitative and quantitative impact of COVID-19 on the organization's operation and ability to deliver services and programs,
- 2) Organizations that demonstrate history of artistic programming, thoughtful community impact, and a track record of success in Central New York and the Mohawk Valley,

- 3) Commitment to the meaningful and ongoing engagement with CNY and MV communities, connecting audiences to accessible arts, culture, history, and heritage opportunities, and
- 4) A plan to use the funds that will have a positive impact on an organization's ability to survive COVID and look to a long-term future (i.e. skeletal staff on board, virtual arts programming, fundraiser, etc.).

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

All organizations that have received support from CNY Arts OR the New York State Council on the Arts in the past three years (2018, 2019, 2020) are eligible to apply. Priority points will be given to:

- Organizations that have not received foundation or private support around COVID-19 related loss.
- Organizations and artists that demonstrate highest risk during this crisis, including historically under-resourced organizations, as well as those who serve under-resourced populations, communities, and artistic disciplines.
- Organizations articulating action steps towards advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as part of the internal and external practices.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applications to the Arts Impact Fund must meet ALL of the criteria below:

- Nonprofit arts organizations (501(c)(3) or NYS Charity based in Cayuga, Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, or Oswego counties.
- Has received funding through CNY Arts in the past three years (FY2018, 2019, or 2020) **OR** is a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) grantee (FY2018-2020) deeming them ineligible for CNY Arts' Decentralization Grants. Those who have not received funding through either entity must complete an eligibility application to determine whether the organization may complete the Arts Resiliency Fund Application.
- Must have at least a three-year history of artistic programming.
- Must have an operating budget of at least \$15,000 based on expenses from the most-recently completed fiscal year (via Form 990).

\*If you do not meet all of these criteria, please contact CNY Arts staff immediately.

## ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

**Eligible Expenses include, but are not limited to:**

- Salary support
- Consultant fees for training, evaluation, or planning
- Contractor fees for legal, bookkeeping, human resources for reopening, health and safety, virtual artistic content, and remote work
- Software/Hardware for online and virtual programming or remote work
- Purchase and/or installation fees related to protective gear or equipment for employees and patrons
- Strategic alignment funds for expenses related to mergers
- Utilities (rent/facility fees, internet, phone, electricity, insurance, etc.)
- Other expenses to fulfill the goal of resiliency as defined by the applicant. However, **this fund cannot be used to pay off long-term debt accumulated prior to January 1, 2020.**

## HOW TO APPLY

All applicants should submit their materials through **Submittable**. A complete application must contain the following materials:

1. **Applicant Profile:** includes basic questions such as organizational information, contact information, eligibility questions (funding history, organizational projected budget).
2. **Project Narrative** should include a narrative qualifying and quantifying the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the agency and operations. Include amount requested and its expected impact on the organization and its clients/constituency. The proposal should specifically address the panel criteria above.
3. **Project Budget** include a breakdown of how you will spend the grant. If applicable, please include invoices or bills if requesting funds for retroactive expenses.
4. **Audited Financial Statement for most recently completed fiscal year. One of the following forms must be uploaded.**
  - Form 990
  - Financial Review
  - Audit
5. **IRS Form W-9**

\*You may address all application letters to the Members of the CNY Arts COVID-19 Arts Impact Panel.

## CONTACT

Elizabeth Lane  
Director of Grants & Programs  
CNY Arts, Inc.  
Phone: (315) 435-2158  
Email: [elane@cnyarts.org](mailto:elane@cnyarts.org)