

January 9, 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee,

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have provided testimony as the new Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) on Tuesday, January 30. Please see below for follow ups to several questions raised during the hearing.

Museum Funding

NYSCA is proud to have supported New York's vast museum sector since our founding in 1960. To-date for FY2024, NYSCA has awarded 188 grants to Museums and Museum Service Organizations, totaling \$7.5 million. Applications from museums had a high success rate, as NYSCA was able to fund 95% of grant requests across our various opportunities.

Additionally, we looked into the question we received regarding funding for the Museum of Innovation and Sciences (miSci). miSci has not applied for NYSCA funding since 2012. We highly encourage miSci, and any prospective applicant, to reach out to NYSCA staff with any questions regarding our process and opportunities, especially ahead of the FY2025 application launch this Spring. The contact information for NYSCA Program Staff can be found here: <https://arts.ny.gov/contact>.

Long Island Funding

To date, NYSCA has awarded 58 grants totaling \$2.2 million to Long Island applicants as part of the FY2024 funding cycle. NYSCA grants are highly competitive, and NYSCA was able to fund over 80% of grants requested by Long Island non-profits and artists. NYSCA is committed to expanding outreach to the field, including our annual guideline information webinars and office hours with staff (which reached over 4,000 prospective applicants for FY2024), and publicizes funding opportunities to local elected officials to reach maximum audience. NYSCA encourages Long Island-based organizations, and any prospective applicants, to reach out to NYSCA staff to learn more about upcoming opportunities.

NYSCA staff had the opportunity to attend Long Island Arts Alliance's community conversation series, *The Economic and Social Impact of Art and Culture on Long Island*, at both the Tilles Center and the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts on December 19. They were incredibly valuable conversations, and we look forward to continuing to work with organizations and artists across Long Island.

MWBE Goals

NYSCA has an agency wide MWBE utilization goal of 30%. During FY2023, 100% of NYSCA's eligible agency expenditures were with MWBEs.

NYSCA's 30% utilization goal also extends to recipients of NYSCA capital grants. All NYSCA capital grantees with awards of \$100,000 or more must make good faith efforts to achieve the 30% MWBE utilization goal unless they are granted a waiver in a limited number of circumstances. NYSCA requires capital grantees to submit an MWBE utilization plan before executing contracts and making initial disbursements, as well as MWBE utilization progress reports before making subsequent disbursements. Additionally, NYSCA is required to submit an annual report on diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity within the agency to the Department of Civil Service and Office of Diversity and Inclusion Management.

Support for Disadvantaged Communities

One of our greatest resources is the tremendous diversity of this great State – both culturally and geographically. At NYSCA, we strive to serve artists, organizations, audiences, and visitors across all 10 regions. This year, NYSCA provided direct grants to organizations and individual artists in 95% of New York counties, while our regrant partners ensured NYSCA funding reached organizations in all 62 counties. As part of the grant application, all applicants are welcome to self-identify if they serve underrepresented communities. In FY2024, 83% of grantees to date indicated that they serve underrepresented communities.

We welcome any additional questions you, your office, and your constituents may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erika Mallin
Executive Director, NYSCA