



On behalf of the millions of artists, designers, and the creative economy, ArtsNYS thanks the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly for their support. We request the New York State Council on the Arts budget be restored to \$100 million, with an additional \$50m for capital programs, and that \$10 million be reallocated for arts councils to regrant. These funds have vitalized our communities from hamlets to cities, sparking public arts projects and empowering artists to strengthen our communities.

ArtsNYS is strongly advocating for the continuation of \$10 million in funding directed to regional arts councils for regranting through decentralized, local decision making. This support has enabled our local arts councils to deeply engage with and support historically underfunded and marginalized groups in unprecedented ways.

In FY23, seven arts councils (The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Arts Mid-Hudson, Arts Services, Inc., ArtsWestchester, CNY Arts, Inc., Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, and Huntington Arts Council), received \$1 million allocations each, with an additional two arts granting organizations (Auburn Public Theater and Earlville Opera House.) receiving \$500,000 each in 2024. The remaining funds were directed to the NYS Council on the Arts.

Reports from these seven arts councils who each received \$1 million in 2023 confirmed that grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each, supported:

- 861 diverse projects by organizations and individual artists across 21 counties.
- 49 libraries, often the sole source of cultural programming in rural areas.

Of these funded projects:

- 39% of the grants were awarded to first-time applicants.
- 49.7% engaged diverse, historically marginalized, or under-resourced communities.
- 22.8% supported BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) initiatives.

This funding also enabled these arts councils to expand their staff, develop new and innovative programs, and engage under-resourced and historically marginalized communities, creating equitable access to arts funding and diversifying cultural programs statewide.

The arts are more than a source of civic pride and enhanced quality of life; they are a vital and robust economic engine for New York, as shown by:

- Western New York's nonprofit arts sector, a \$352.1 million industry, sustains 10,160 full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$40.3 million in local and state government revenue. (AEP5, 2017)



- The Greater Syracuse Area, where 47 nonprofit cultural organizations and their audiences generated over \$148 million in direct expenditures, supporting 5,906 jobs, and yielding over \$8 million in state revenue. (LeMoyne Arts Impact Study, 2018)
- Long Island's nonprofit arts sector, generating \$178.4 million in economic activity, supporting 4,905 jobs, and providing \$234.5 million household income and \$81.2 million in government revenue. (AEP6, 2023)
- Monroe County, where the arts contribute \$93 million annually to the economy, supported by more than 1,500 full-time and 2,100 part-time employees. (National Center for Arts Research)

New York State's investment in the arts has been transformative, fueling economic growth and community development. Here in the Capital Region, our community thrives with creativity, energy, and optimism. We sincerely appreciate your support for regional arts councils. Your investment in us signals your trust in the arts as a foundation for building a stronger New York.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Reiss

President, ArtsNYS and CEO of the Arts Center of the Capital Region