About

Community Arts grants support arts and cultural activities of artists and organizations in service to residents in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga counties. These activities increase the value of the arts as an integral part of the community and make the arts accessible to all. These grants are made possible with public, Decentralization (DEC) funds from the New York State Council on the ARTS (NYSCA), a state agency, and administered locally by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes (The ARTS Council).

Grant Criteria

Grants are awarded via a merit-based review process based upon the following criteria:

- Artistic and/or Cultural and Programmatic Merit
- Community Benefit & Accessibility
- Managerial & Fiscal Competence

Programmatic quality is valued over participant quantity.

Grant Amount

Grants range from $500 to $5,000.

Applicant Eligibility

The following applicants residing in either Chemung, Steuben, Schuyler, or Tioga county are eligible to apply for this grant program:

- Nonprofit organization or unit of local government
- Individual artist(s) applying through a fiscal sponsoring nonprofit organization or with a community-based nonprofit partner
- Organizations or groups not yet incorporated applying through a fiscal sponsoring nonprofit organization or with a community-based nonprofit partner

A community-based nonprofit partner is required to provide a letter of commitment outlining the scope of the partnership and each partner's investment (in-kind and/or cash) towards the project. In this case, the applicant will be responsible for receiving award funds. Fiscal sponsors must meet the same basic eligibility requirements as non-profit applicants and will be responsible for receiving and distributing award funds to their sponsored organization.

Fiscal sponsors and community partners must be located in the county where the activity is taking place. A direct applicant to NYSCA cannot serve as a community partner or fiscal sponsor, however, a direct applicant to NYSCA can support the project as long as no financial benefit comes to them. A fiscal
sponsor can also apply for a Community Arts grant. See addendum for more details on applicant eligibility.

**Funding Eligibility**

Applicants may submit up to three (3) funding requests in any combination of Community Arts, Teaching Artist, and Individual Artist grants totaling no more than $5,000.

Funding can support planning and preparation of proposed projects and expenses related to delivering projects virtually.

There is no required match and applicants may apply for a 100% of the proposed project’s total cost.

See addendum for more details on funding eligibility.

**Project Eligibility**

Community focused, in-person and virtual, arts and cultural activities occurring during the 2021 calendar year are eligible. Examples of previously funded projects include public art installations, workshops, musical and theatrical productions, poetry readings, and folk art workshops. Audience sizes can be limited in scope to meet New York State COVID-19 social distance protocols.

NYSCA applicants may offer their venue gratis, handle ticketing, and provide other support for the project, however projects cannot financially benefit direct NYSCA applicants. The project also cannot be advertised as part of the NYSCA applicant’s official season/programming and must clearly use the provided credit language indicating that it is a DEC funded project.

See addendum for more details on project eligibility.

**Application Process and Deadline**

The application deadline is 11:59pm on Friday, November 6, 2020. Applications are submitted online through our online application system at [https://earts.submittable.com/submit](https://earts.submittable.com/submit).

The completed application consists of the following:

- Applicant Information
- Project Information & Narrative Questions
- Budget Information, Narrative, & Form
- Letter of Partnership (if applicable)
- Artist(s) Resume, Bio, or CV (typed in narrative form or attached)
- Artistic Work Samples
- Marketing Materials

Applications should be thorough, clear, and concise manner. Suggested information to include in the narrative questions is found in the online application.

**Application Assistance**

All applicants are required to discuss their projects with the Grants Manager before submitting their applications.
The Grants Manager will also conduct a series of grant information sessions via Zoom. These sessions will focus a particular topic, such as budget creation. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one or more of these sessions. The schedule can be found on our website. There will be no in-person sessions.

It’s highly recommended that applicants take the opportunity to submit an application draft via email at least 1 week before the deadline. Application drafts will be reviewed for clarity and with an eye towards the evaluative criteria, not for copyediting and rewriting. Please note the recommendations of the Grants Manager may not align with the grant panelists. The Grants Manager will not have time to look at last minute drafts.

At the request of an applicant, the Grants Manager can make requested changes to an applicant’s submitted application up until the deadline. After the deadline, no changes can be made. The Grants Manager will not review submitted applications for completeness.

Contact the Grants Manager at chris@eARTS.org or 607-962-1332 x205 for more assistance.

**Review Process**

A grant panel consisting of artists and other community members evaluates each application and recommends funding amounts. When considering proposals from previously funded applicants, upon request reviewers will be furnished historical records, however 2020 COVID-19 related project results will have no bearing on 2021 requests. Panel recommendations are presented to The ARTS Council’s Board of Directors for review of all funding decisions.

Support of an organization in the past does not imply or guarantee that an applicant’s project will be funded. Applications are reviewed each year in the context of the evaluation criteria and available funding and evaluated competitively against other requests. There is also no guarantee an applicant will receive equivalent funding as an applicant with a similar and/or joint funding request and project.

The ARTS Council’s staff does not make funding decisions. Although the Grants Manager facilitates the panel meetings, he does not state opinions or make recommendations to the panel. Any previous recommendations or assistance made to an applicant in no way constitutes a guarantee of funding and may not reflect the panel’s opinions.

**Award Notification & Distribution of Funds**

Community Arts funding is subject to the availability of funds from the New York State Council on the Arts. All applicants will receive award notification and feedback via email by the end of December. Successful applicants will receive their funds once a signed acceptance agreement is returned. Email is preferred.

**About The ARTS Council**

The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes (The ARTS Council) is a regional arts services organization located in the Southern Tier of New York State serving artists of all disciplines, organizations, and the public in Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, and Tioga counties and beyond. Further information is available at www.eARTS.org.
Addendum: Detailed Eligibility Information

Consult the Grants Manager to determine if your application meets all eligibility requirements. The following will make your application ineligible and not considered for funding:

Applicant

- Applied directly to NYSCA for 2021 funding, regardless of funding status
- Failed to submit final reports for completed, DEC funded grant applications.
- Is a public school district, an affiliate or component or a four-year public university or college
- Is a New York State agency or department
- Is an individual or unincorporated group not applying through a fiscal sponsor or community partner
- If an applicant does not discuss their project with the Grants Manager in advance of submission
- Does not submit an application and required documents through the online application system
- Is not current or registered in the county where the organization is operating

Project Proposal

- Takes place outside the county where the applicant resides
- Specifically targets home-school participants
- Proposes non-arts activities
- Proposes the acquisition of artwork
- Proposes paying children or students (primary, secondary, higher education) as professional artists
- Proposes paying cash prizes or awards
- Proposes paying administrative costs unrelated to proposed project
- Proposes projects that are intended as recreational, rehabilitative, or therapeutic and also lack an artistic component
- Proposes activities and programs that cannot be completed between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022
- Is restricted to the specific membership of an organization
- Proposes, as the primary benefit, the financial gain of an individual or organization
- Proposes support of commercial arts, martial arts, journalism and entertainment (such as balloons, clowns, bubble presentations and/or magicians, sip and paint)

Funding Request

- Is less than $500 or exceeds $5,000
- Supports equipment purchases in excess of $1,000
- Supports operating, deficit, capital, start-up, contingency, or other administrative expenses not related to the project
- Finances fellowships and/or scholarships
- Project income exceeds project expenses
- Subsidizes entertainment costs (e.g. theater parties, gallery/museum openings, receptions)
- Supports fundraising activities