

**Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Arts and Cultural Initiative  
FAQ**

**1. Which organizations can apply?**

- Small to mid-sized nonprofit organizations that have arts and culture as core to their mission.
  - Exceptions may be made for the core mission in rural communities with limited independent arts and cultural organizations.
- Applicant organizations must “do business” in one or more of nine counties - Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming.
- The 13 organizations named by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation receiving direct, yearly funding are not eligible (see [link](#) for list).
- Fiscal sponsorships are acceptable; the fiscal sponsor does not need to meet above criteria.

**2. What is exemption process for an organization in a rural community with limited independent arts and cultural organizations?**

In rural communities with limited independent arts and cultural organizations, other 501(c)(3) organizations which provide arts and culture opportunities for their community may apply. Exceptions must be granted by the Community Foundation in writing. Please write to [WilsonArts@cfgb.org](mailto:WilsonArts@cfgb.org) to explain the unique circumstances in your rural community **by September 9**. If an exception is granted, please upload the email approval with your application.

**3. If using a fiscal sponsor which organization should apply?**

The fiscal sponsor is the applicant and legally responsible for grant fulfillment, including reporting. However, other than the name and address, the grant application should be completed with the information for the arts and cultural organization which must meet the criteria in #1 above.

**4. What is the purpose of the funding?**

The objective is to provide funding primarily for small to mid-sized organizations, including grassroots organizations. This funding was provided in recognition of the unique value grassroots/small/mid-sized organizations provide to the vitality of the arts and cultural sector.

**5. Does this fund have a geographic requirement?**

Eligible organizations must be physically located in and/or operate from one or more of the nine counties - Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming.

**6. How much funding is available for the 2022 grant cycle?**

\$500,000

**7. What type of funding can my organization apply for?**

There are two grant application opportunities.

(I) General Operating grant to a single organization and (II) Collaborative grant to support efforts of two or more arts and cultural organizations working together to advance inclusion.

**8. How are you defining small to mid-sized organization?**

**Applicant organizations must have had no more than \$3 million in revenue in FY 2021 to be eligible to apply for operating grants.**

Preference for operating grants will be given to organizations for which \$10,000 will make a meaningful impact on their annual operations. Preference for collaborative grants will be given to collaborations which will have a meaningful impact on inclusion and for which small to mid-sized arts and cultural organizations receive the majority of the funding requested.

**9. For the Collaborative grant, do all partners have to be arts and cultural organizations?**

Yes, the intent is to have two or more arts and cultural organizations create something that is unique and will further inclusion in the community.

**10. What size grant can I request?**

For the General Operating grant, the range is up to \$10,000. For the Collaborative grant, the range is up to \$25,000.

**11. Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?**

No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered for the 2022 pilot year process.

**12. Will partial funding be considered?**

Yes

**13. How do I apply?**

We will begin accepting applications on August 15, 2022. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on September 16. Applications are accepted online at

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

**14. May I email or mail my grant request?**

No, applications are accepted online only at

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

**15. When are funds available?**

Decisions are expected by mid-December 2022. Awards from the 2022 cycle will be distributed by January 31, 2023, and once the awarded applicant has completed any requested paperwork.

**16. How many applications can my organization submit to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Arts and Cultural Initiative?**

For the 2022 year, an organization can submit an application requesting an Operating grant **OR** a Collaborative grant, but not both.

**17. If I have an open grant with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds or other Community Foundation funds, can I apply for a grant from this process?**

Yes

**18. If an organization is awarded a grant in 2022 from this process, will it be eligible for the 2023?**

As 2022 is a pilot year and the Community Foundation expects to learn from the initial year, grant guidelines for 2023 have not been determined.

**19. Are municipalities or schools eligible to apply for funding?**

No

**20. Is there an allocation of funding by geographic region or by type of art and cultural organization?**

For the 2022 cycle, there is no specific allocation of funds by geography or type of arts organization.

**21. If I have further questions, who do I contact?**

Please email [WilsonArts@cfgb.org](mailto:WilsonArts@cfgb.org) or attend a Grant Briefing on **Wednesday, August 24, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.** or **Thursday, September 1, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** The Community Foundation will hold two Grant Briefings by Zoom to discuss the guidelines and any questions arts and cultural organizations may have about the application process.

- *If you would like to attend one of these sessions, you can join using the link below:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3690464881?pwd=bl0vMVJaMU1pRTZVYll0akRud0pWdz09>

Join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656

Meeting ID: 369 046 4881

Passcode: 134944