



**Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.
Arts & Culture Initiative**

At the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Frequently Asked Questions

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. Refer to FAQ #2 for more information.
- Applicant organizations must be physically located in and/or operate in one or more of nine counties Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and 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 but the criteria must be met by the arts and cultural organization.

2. What is the 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 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. What should I know if I am using a fiscal sponsor?

This is intended to ensure arts and culture nonprofit organizations that use the support of fiscal sponsors for grant applications are included in this initiative. 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 arts organizations that are centered in the community. 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 and beyond.

5. Who will evaluate the grant application?

A group of panelists representing peer arts and culture organizations within each of the 9

counties will review applications and make funding recommendations. Panelists and Community Foundation staff will work together to allocate funding.

6. How is the grant application evaluated?

Please review the [application rubric linked here](#) to understand the evaluation process.

7. How much funding is available for the 2023 grant cycle?

\$500,000

8. What type of funding can my organization apply for?

There are two grant application opportunities:

- General Operating grant to a single organization
- Collaborative grant to support efforts of two or more arts and cultural organizations

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

Applicant organizations must have had no more than \$2 million in revenue in FY 2022 to be eligible to apply for operating grants. Arts and cultural programs within larger nonprofit institutions, for example, an art gallery with a < \$2M budget within a university setting, may be eligible. Please write to WilsonArts@cfgb.org to explain your unique circumstances by September 9. If eligibility is granted, please upload the email approval with your application.

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

At least 2 arts and cultural organizations must be engaged in mutually-beneficial and equitable collaboration.

11. What size grant can I request?

For the General Operating grant, the range is up to \$15,000. For the Collaborative grant, the range is up to \$25,000.

12. Will the Fund consider a multi-year request?

No, multi-year grant requests will not be considered for 2023.

13. Will partial funding be considered?

Yes

14. How do I apply?

We will begin accepting applications on August 14, 2023. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on September 15. Applications are accepted online at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

15. May I email or mail my grant request?

No, applications are accepted online only at <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>.

16. When are funds available?

Decisions are expected by mid-December 2023. Awards from the 2023 cycle will be distributed by January 31, 2024, and once the awarded applicant has completed any requested paperwork.

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

For the 2023 year, an organization can submit an application requesting an Operating grant **OR** a Collaborative grant, but not both.

18. 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

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

Yes

20. Will this process remain the same in future years?

It is unlikely this process will remain the same in future years. Since April 2023, Yuki Numata Resnick, Director of Arts and Culture, was hired to oversee the Arts & Culture Initiative. In her first year, she is focused on developing a deeper understanding of the sector's strengths and opportunities. This learning will inform how this grant process will evolve in the future.

21. Are municipalities or schools eligible to apply for funding?

No

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

For the 2023 cycle, there is no specific allocation of funds by geography or type of arts organization.

23. If I have further questions, who do I contact?

Please email Yuki Numata Resnick at WilsonArts@cfgb.org or attend a Grant Briefing below. **If you plan to attend a briefing, please RSVP here.**

- **Tuesday, Aug 22 @ 6pm**

IN PERSON at Rochester Contemporary Art Center: 137 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14604

- **Wednesday, August 23 @ 6pm**

IN PERSON at the Tri-County Arts Council: 110 West State Street, Olean, NY 14760
OR
Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87265792744?pwd=RCs2azVxUEdRaWh2eTR3TmRPL3ozQT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 872 6579 2744
Passcode: 815298

- **Thursday, August 24 @ 10am**

IN PERSON at Buffalo Science Museum: 1020 Humboldt Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14211
OR

Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82737732206?pwd=anJXSWo5REx2RWg2TGZPeFVUb0JYQT09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 827 3773 2206

Passcode: 551558