



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

At the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Grant Guidelines

In August 2023, the second round of funding opportunities is open to arts and culture organizations with a budget of no more than \$2 million in their Fiscal Year 2022. There are 2 opportunities available:

1. A single arts and culture nonprofit organization may apply for up to \$15,000 for operating funding.
2. Multiple arts and culture organizations are encouraged to apply together for up to \$25,000 to support collaborative efforts. Preference will be given to collaborations for which small to mid-size arts and culture organizations receive the majority of the funding requested. At least 2 collaborators must be arts and culture organizations.

For both opportunities, preference will be given to community-led organizations that are centered in the community. In the context of this initiative, the term “community” may refer to a range of shared connections from geographic proximity to shared identity. This initiative understands that the phrase, “centered in the community” is dependent on multiple factors unique to each organization. Applicants are encouraged to provide their own concept of “community-centering” within the broader context of their communities. Where applicable, applicants are encouraged to provide demographic information on income levels, race, ethnicity, gender, etc.

The total amount available for disbursement in 2023 is approximately \$500,000.

Eligibility

- Small to mid-sized 501(c)(3) 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. Exceptions must be granted by the Community Foundation in writing. Please write to WilsonArts@cfqb.org to explain the unique circumstances in your rural community by September 9.
- 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, Wyoming.
- The 13 organizations named by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation receiving direct, yearly funding are not eligible.
- Organizations with a budget of no more than \$2 million in their Fiscal Year 2022
- Fiscal sponsorships are acceptable; the fiscal sponsor does not need to meet above criteria but the applicant organization does.

The Community Foundation will not consider funding for:

- Higher education scholarships
- Religious purposes
- Projects exclusively for residents of other counties than the nine listed above.
- Schools not registered with the New York State Education Department
- Attendance at or sponsorship of fundraising events for organizations
- Any partisan political activity. Funds from the Community Foundation cannot be used to support or oppose a candidate for political office.
- Projects and activities that have occurred. The Community Foundation will not, except in extraordinary cases, provide payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to the funding decision being communicated to the applicant.

UPDATED: Collaborative Opportunity Detail

- Primary applicant must fit all eligibility criteria above.
- Primary applicants is the FIRST applicant listed on the application.
 - If funded, funds will be released to the primary applicant to disburse to partners
 - Grantwriting responsibilities are up to partners to determine
- Focus on equitable collaboration
 - The application should demonstrate an equitable division of responsibilities and funds

Additional Information

- Applications MUST be submitted electronically online:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=greaterbuffalo>
No paper, emailed, or pdf applications will be accepted. A simple report will also be requested at the end of the year and will be available through the same online system.
- The Community Foundation reserves the right to conduct an independent evaluation of grant expenditures for up to four years. The grantee agrees to provide the information necessary to complete such an evaluation. Failure to submit requested information in a timely fashion may obligate the grantee to refund the grant.
- The use of grant funds for purposes not pre-approved by the Community Foundation or not supported through required documentation will result in a request that those grant funds be returned to the Community Foundation. The failure of an applicant to properly close out a grant in a timely manner will be a factor when considering new grants.
- The Community Foundation is a supporter of the BoardStrong initiative which assists public charities in achieving the highest standards of board leadership, governance and oversight. We recommend organizations utilize this service to improve their capacity strengthen their boards by providing access to a pool of talent for board service and governance resources: www.boardstrong.org
- The Community Foundation embraces the benefits of diversity, equity, and inclusion. In its grantmaking decisions, the Community Foundation supports organizations, projects, and programs that share its belief that no person in the United States shall on the basis of the Protected Characteristics, or any other improper criterion, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under its programs or activities.

Timeline

- RFP accepted online: August 14, 2023
- Application deadline: September 15, 2023 at 4 PM

NOTE: Applications in draft form on the website after the deadline will be considered abandoned and will not be eligible to be considered for funding.

- Decision notification: December 2023

Questions may be directed to Director of Arts and Culture, Yuki Numata Resnick:
WilsonArts@cfgb.org