

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APPLICATION OPENS FOR NEW STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN SMALL NONPROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

October 17, 2023 (Albany, NY) — Applications are now open for a new program to strengthen small arts organizations based across New York State, led by the [New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. \(NYCON\)](#) and the [New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](#) with funding from the [New York State Council on the Arts \(NYSCA\)](#). Small arts nonprofits provide key resources in their communities, yet often struggle to survive and grow. The new “NYSCA Stabilization Program for Small Arts Organizations” is designed to help participants identify and become more capable to address significant operational issues that are impeding their growth or development. The program will serve eligible nonprofits through a combination of tailored advisory services and financial support.

Applicants for the new NYSCA program must hold 501(c)3 nonprofit status or be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)3 organization. They must also have an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million, and be based outside of New York City. Rural and BIPOC-led (Black/Indigenous/People of Color) community-based organizations are strongly encouraged to apply.

The first round of applications for the NYSCA Stabilization Program for Small Arts Organizations program must be received by Nov. 16 of this year, and a second-round application deadline will be Feb. 1, 2024. [Click here](#) for further information, including a link to the application. At the conclusion of the program, each organization may also be awarded a grant of up to \$10,000 to help them purchase equipment and/or further services that reinforce their newly increased capacities.

Nonprofits are eligible to apply for the program whether or not they have received past grant support from NYSCA. Both NYFA and NYCON are themselves nonprofits and bring to this program decades of experience in advising and supporting arts organizations. Each organization will work with applicants and participants from different parts of the state (see below a list of designated counties):

— NYCON: Central, Western, Southern Tier, and Finger Lakes regions

— NYFA: Capital, Long Island, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk, and North Country regions

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications open: Monday, October 16, 2023

Round 1 Application Deadline: Thursday, November 16, 2023, 5pm ET

Round 2 Application Deadline: Thursday, February 1, 2023, 5pm ET

Eligibility Definitions, Regional Assignments:

— Rural communities are defined as having populations of less than 30,000 and not being part of an urban or suburban cluster.

— BIPOC is an acronym for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

— Community-based arts and cultural organizations represent community needs and work to help them. They may be associated with a particular area of interest or segment of their community.

— NYCON program regions and counties: Central, Western, Southern Tier, and Finger Lakes regions (including Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties).

— NYFA program regions and counties: Capital, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk, and North Country regions, as well as Long Island (including Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida, Schoharie, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties).

NYCON will host two informational webinars for prospective applicants:

• Thursday, October 26, 12:00 PM ET, [Register here](#)

• Friday, October 27, 12:00PM ET, [Register here](#)

NYFA will also host two informational webinars for prospective applicants:

• Wednesday, November 6, 1:00 PM ET, [Register here](#)

• Wednesday, November 29, 1:00 PM ET, [Register here](#)

For more information see the [NYCON](#) or [NYFA](#) website.

“We now know the arts are outpacing manufacturing, retail, healthcare and construction for creating jobs in upstate communities,” said Katherine Nicholls, Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts. “This training and funding for arts groups will help them flourish as they continue to provide economic security and community health all across the State. We are proud to support NYCON and NYFA in this essential work.”

New York Council of Nonprofits CEO Megan Allen noted, “NYCON has been fortunate to work with NYSCA to support arts organizations across the state since 2006, and we are excited to partner on this new initiative. The stabilization programming will allow us to provide additional arts organizations with robust services and access to all NYCON experts. We look forward to helping these organizations grow and thrive into the future.”

“We’re proud to partner with NYSCA and NYCON on this much-needed program,” said Michael Royce, CEO, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA). “We look forward to giving organizations the tools and support they need to be more sustainable long-term, because their work and the services they provide ultimately benefits many and provides a vibrancy to the New York State communities of which they are a part,” he added.

The new NYSCA Stabilization Program for Small Arts Organizations is administered by NYCON and NYFA in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts, and is made possible with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State’s arts, culture, and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, the Council on the Arts will award \$127 million in FY 2024. The Council on the Arts further advances New York’s creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit www.arts.ny.gov, and follow NYSCA’s [Facebook](#) page, Twitter [@NYSCArts](#) and Instagram [@NYSCouncilontheArts](#)

About the New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc. (NYCON)

NYCON is a statewide association of nonprofits, working to develop and promote an effective and vibrant charitable nonprofit community throughout New York State. NYCON strengthens organizational capacity, acts as an advocate and unifying voice, helps to inform philanthropic giving, and conducts research and planning to demonstrate relevance and impact. Combined, these efforts help to improve the quality of life in communities by strengthening the effectiveness, efficiencies, and viability of charitable nonprofits. To learn more about NYCON, visit www.nycon.org.

About the New York Foundation of the Arts

[The New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](#) was established in 1971 to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Today, the nonprofit organization’s programs and services are far-reaching and are rooted in a wealth of physical and online resources. Each year, NYFA awards more than \$4 million in cash grants to individual visual, performing, and literary artists throughout the United States. NYFA’s Fiscal Sponsorship program, one of the oldest and most reputable in

the country, helps national artists and arts organizations raise and manage an average of \$4 million annually. NYFA's Learning programs, including its Artist as Entrepreneur and Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program, provide thousands of artists, creatives, and arts administrators with professional development training and support. NYFA's website, [NYFA.org](https://www.nyfa.org), is used by more than 1 million people and features more than 20,000 opportunities and resources available to artists in all disciplines.

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