



Florine Luhr | President :

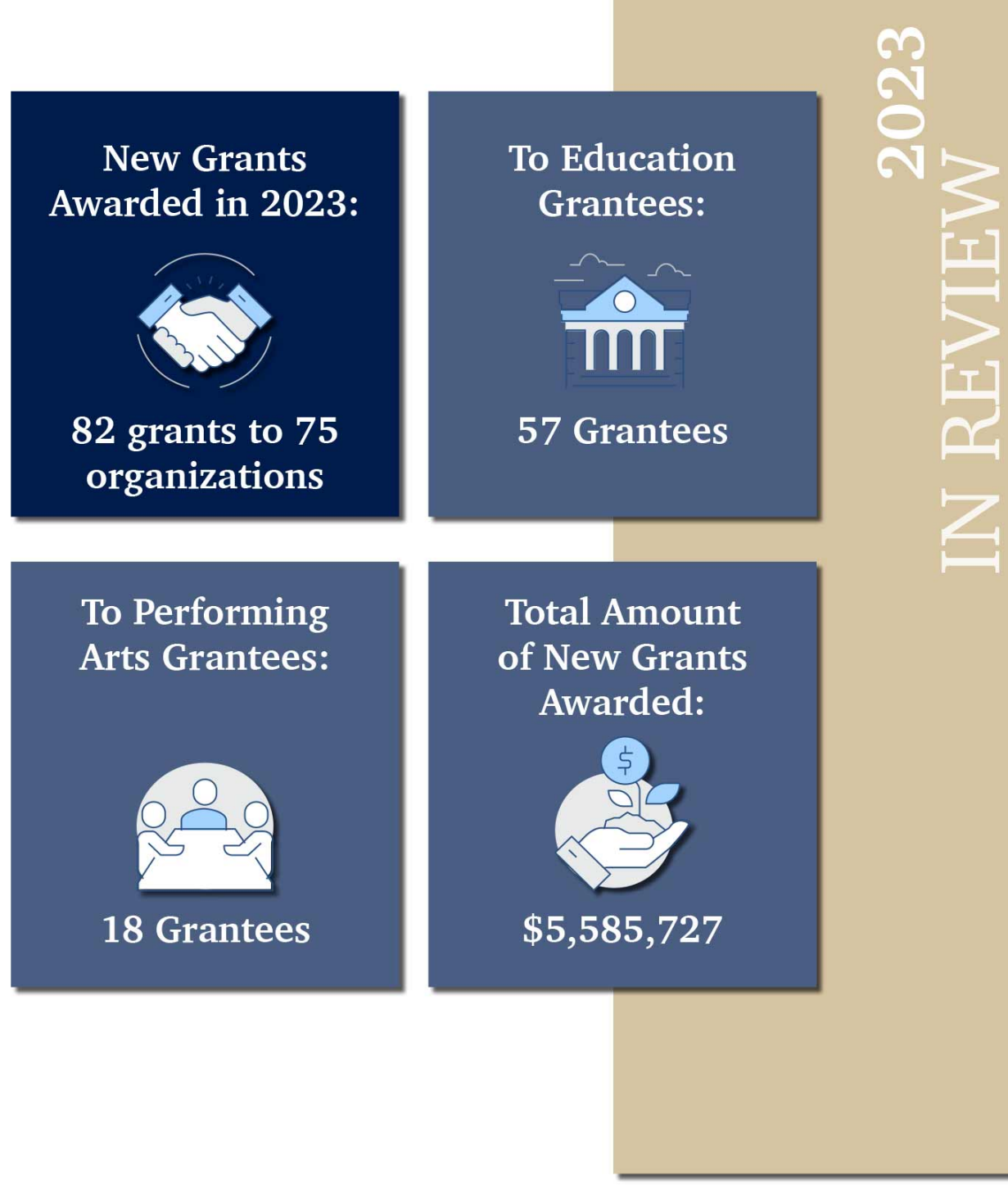


Years ago, a mentor gave me the excellent advice of focusing on reporting forward rather than backward. With a report like this one, the common practice is to assemble year-end figures, contemplate them, and possibly compare them to past years for measurement's sake.

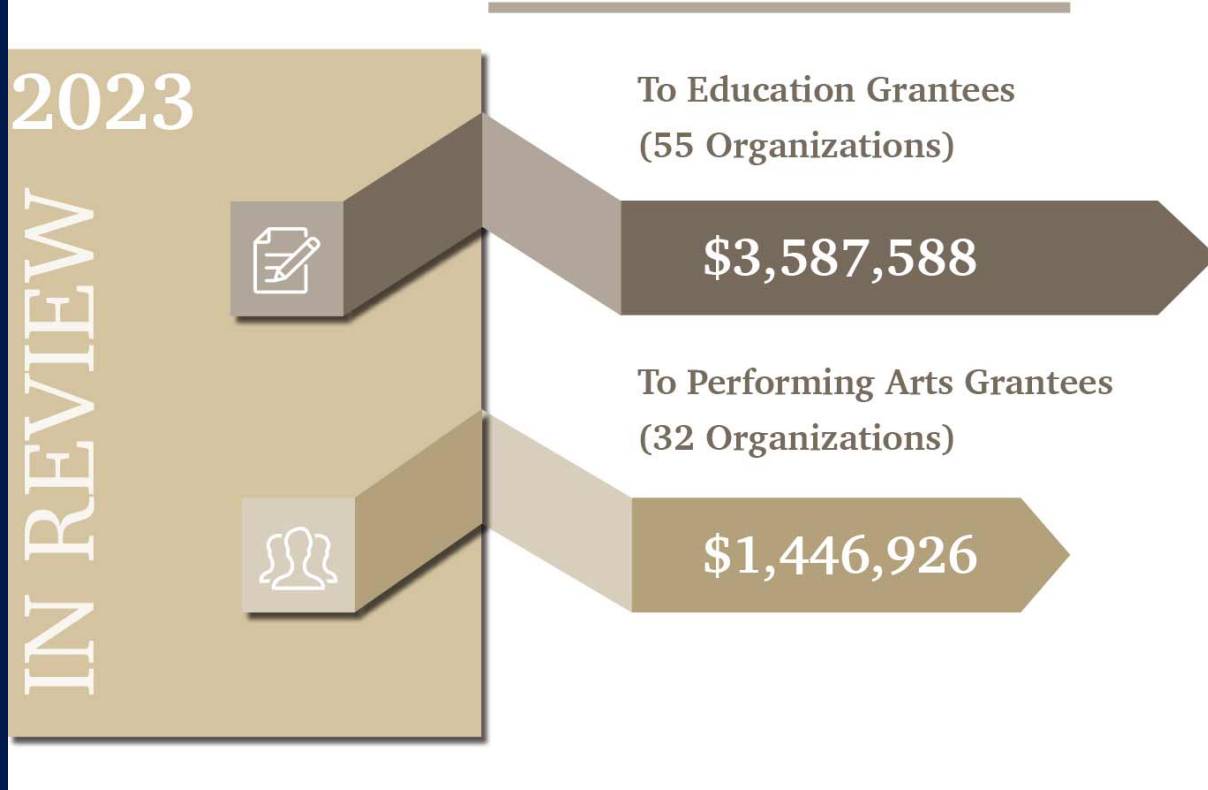
But if we look forward to 2024 and beyond instead, we clearly see before us...

- ⚡ The creativity and optimism of dozens of grantee partners planning high-quality, engaging academic and enrichment programs for thousands of local PreK-grade 12 students.
- ⚡ Through the Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows program, multiple Buffalo schools and higher education partners producing the next generation of local teachers with a focus on diversity, mentorship and with aspiring teachers receiving a paid in-school role, tuition assistance, and practical experience.
- ⚡ Opportunities for dozens of young adults to experience education careers through AmeriCorps programs, working in multiple schools and local education nonprofits.
- ⚡ Grantee staff and boards committing to furthering their knowledge of high-quality nonprofit practices in topics such as governance, finance, and succession planning.
- ⚡ The resilience of our local nonprofit workforce who perform vital work in our community despite challenging conditions.
- ⚡ Patrons and audiences returning to our many theatres, music venues, and other performing arts assets, stabilizing ticket sales and substantiating that high-quality arts experiences amplify the vibrancy of our region.

At the Cullen Foundation we believe that the funding we grant each year can spur outsized impact in Buffalo's PreK-12 education and performing arts sectors, thanks to the extraordinary work of our grantee partners. Looking ahead, we're optimistic that 2024 brings unlimited opportunities for advancement of community needs and impactful results, best achieved by pursuing them together.



Grant Funds Awarded/Paid:



Grants Paid by Focus Area & Program Area

Funding By Program Area/Subdiscipline		
	Amount	% of Focus Areas \$ Total
Supplemental Academic Programs	\$1,582,388	44%
Human Capital	\$1,003,335	28%
Charter Schools	\$671,090	19%
Scholarships (Middle School & High School)	\$330,275	9%
Total \$	\$3,587,588	100%

Education

Funding By Program Area/Subdiscipline		
	Amount	% of Focus Area \$ Total
Music	\$711,500	49%
Theatre	\$593,139	41%
Multi-Performing Arts	\$82,287	6%
Singers	\$25,000	2%
Dance	\$35,000	2%
Total \$	\$1,446,926	100%

Performing Arts



Supplemental Academic Programs (SAPs)

- Conducted 4th local SAP Landscape Analysis with VIA Evaluation to assess the evaluation capacity of local Supplemental Academic Programs (SAPs).
- Provided funding to 16 SAP grantees for 1:1 professional capacity building services to ready them for Cullen's SAP program fund application process.
- Implementation of common assessments for local Supplemental Academic Programs (SAP) with 15 SAP grantees undergoing program evaluation through a PILOT program with Chapin Hall.
- Sixth year of significant program support to Say Yes Summer Camp, which served 1,416 Buffalo students in grades Pre-K through 6 in a 6-week program featuring 27 camp partner sites. All partner sites offered evidence-based academic programming, as well as enrichment programming and healthy meals/snacks.



Charter Schools

- Completed Strategic Plan Refresh of the Foundation's Charter School Strategy with Bellwether Education Partners.
- Launched Charter School Cohort collaboration with 13 local schools participating across four (4) professionally facilitated groups around priorities areas of Early Literacy Tutoring, Early Literacy Curricular Supports, Early College, and Talent.
- Support of the launch of BRICK Buffalo Academy charter school in East Buffalo.



Human Capital

- Launch of Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows program with TNTP with 31 Fellows recruited and enrolled in four (4) Master's degree teaching programs. BUTF Fellows commit to teaching in Buffalo schools for three (3) years after earning their Master's degree. This first cohort of includes 37% individuals identifying as people of color. Cullen-funded tuition supports for the BUTF Fellows Fall 2023 semester totaled \$117,421.
- Grow Your Own Program, a teacher pathways/pipeline program for high school students, was launched by partners Canisius College, Buff Sci and Tapestry High School.
- Continued funding early childhood programs through a grant to The Service Collaborative, supporting 20 AmeriCorps ABLE members placed at local nonprofit Pre-K programs, strengthening the local Head Start teacher pipeline. 91% of the program participants identify as people of color.



Scholarship

- Cullen Scholars program awarded five (5) new scholarships to incoming sixth grade students; the current total of enrolled students for SY 2023-24 grows to 31 students attending 16 local private schools.
- Cullen Scholars surpassed \$2 million in total tuition and wrap-around supports for 52 private middle school and high school students since program inception in 2016.



Performing Arts

- Launch of 2024 Cullen Fellows Cohort; five (5) emerging performing arts leaders awarded fellowships to enhance their skills through a customized professional development plan.
- Launch of partnership with New York Council on Nonprofits (NYCON) to train 57 board and staff members from 25 performing arts grantees in the areas of Governance and Finance.



All Grantees

- Seven (7) Cullen grantees completed Network for Good's yearlong Jumpstart fundraising program in July 2023; five (5) additional grantees began Jumpstart in August 2023.