

YOU ARE IRREPLACABLE



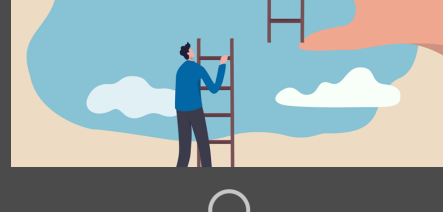
We feel strongly it's time to recognize our nonprofit performing arts partners who've shown remarkable resilience and creativity throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

With programming and funding streams abruptly halted and many sector members displaced through layoffs (particularly those essential and flexible part-time staff) our performing arts grantees dug deep. From accelerated development of virtual programming to pivoting to implement a variety of capacity-building initiatives -- fundraising, board development, strategic planning, capital improvements and more -- our performing arts grantees simply never gave up.

We are grateful to all staff, board members, and volunteers of our performing arts grantees and to all of WNY's arts and cultural sector members. Thank you for all you do to entertain, educate, and enrich our community. You are irreplaceable.

Continue reading below to discover some of the realities of our local performing arts sector's pandemic experiences. We're confident you'll share our pride in their resilience and accomplishments in this most challenging time.

LINKS TO PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCES



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Cullen's Performing Arts grant opportunities



PERFORMING ARTS OUTCOME BANK

Use this free resource, developed with VIA Evaluation, to make all of your grant outcomes stronger



PERFORMING ARTS COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL FUNDS SURVEY RESULTS

See the report on how 30 of our performing arts grantees experienced March 2020 to March 2021

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR GRANTEES ON HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE LOCAL PERFORMING ARTS SECTOR RIGHT NOW



ALLEYWAY THEATRE

CHRIS HANDLEY

"I think the number one way to support us is to be an audience member! The biggest win in our book will be to perform to full houses. Come back, buy tickets, buy subscriptions, buy a subscription for your neighbor or coworker or enemy... but come back and sit in the seats and see a play again."

IRISH CLASSICAL THEATRE

KATE LOCANTI ALCOCER

"Help us make our return to live programming a triumph by joining us at The Andrews for our 31st Season! Attending our shows, following us on Social Media, and spreading the word are wonderful ways to support Irish Classical. Thank you!"



SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

MICHAEL MURPHY

"I encourage everyone to make a gift of the arts to someone you don't know well, perhaps even a stranger. Rarely does someone just walk into a theatre or museum without someone having invited them there for the first time. Reach out: to a neighbor, a friend, a relative, a nearby school classroom, a social club, someone old or someone young, and bring them with you or provide a gift card. If transportation might be a challenge for them, offer to pay for a rideshare. You'll not only be supporting the arts with that purchase of a ticket or gift card, but you'll be changing a life."

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

LISA LUDWIG

"Continue following Shakespeare In Delaware Park on social media platforms and our website throughout the year to find out new information regarding special events, the upcoming season and how you can support this Free Shakespeare company."



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

STAFF AT THE BPO

Become familiar with the wide array of performing arts organizations by attending!

Become a donor and/or subscriber

Introduce us to new audiences by bringing friends with you

Consider gifting friends and family gift certificates and subscriptions

Follow and engage with us on social media

Partner with us on projects - bring us ideas and be open to ideas we bring you - so we can demonstrate the significance of what we do to the community at large

Help advocate to foundations for general operating and increased support for the arts

PERFORMING ARTS GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS



GRANTS TO WNY PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

\$1,123,690

AMONG 39 ORGANIZATIONS



GRANTS TO WNY PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

YTD JANUARY TO AUGUST:

\$779,500

AMONG 20 ORGANIZATIONS

JUMPSTART

It was out of our shared understanding and from a desire to invest in Buffalo's emerging nonprofit leaders that Network for Good and Cullen Foundation launched the Jumpstart Program for Cullen grantees in July 2020.



Congratulations to our eight performing arts grantees who've completed or enrolled in Jumpstart, the nationally recognized fundraising capacity building program managed by our friends at Network for Good:

Alleyway Theatre, Cullen 2020 cohort

Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Cullen 2020 cohort

Irish Classical Theatre Company, Cullen 2020 cohort

Kenan Center, Cullen 2020 cohort

Neglia Ballet Artists, Cullen 2020 cohort

Torn Space Theatre, Cullen 2020 cohort

Historic Colored Musicians Club Buffalo, Cullen 2021 cohort

Nusantara Arts, Cullen 2021 cohort

WE ASKED OUR PERFORMING ARTS GRANTEES TO REFLECT ON THE DAYS AND MONTHS SINCE COVID. WE THINK THEIR RESPONSES REFLECT THE SECTOR'S RESILIENCE

We are strong and committed. We've just been on hold for the past year.

We're coming out fighting, but badly bruised.

Staff and the company stepped up and performed incredible work ... opportunities lay ahead, and the more we work towards completing and actualizing the plan, the better we feel.

We are dedicated to our organization and determined to succeed. We have had great support from our students, families, donors and local foundations. We are lucky!

Earned revenue was reduced by over 90%, we're confident that, once we are able to get through the future cash crunch... our work during the pandemic will have prepared us for future success.

The past 12 months have been incredibly challenging yet have provided a rare opportunity for self-reflection, thinking about our organizational values, and strengthening relationships with our audience and community. We are optimistic for the return to a new "normal" and to once again provide the much-needed balm the arts bring to our community.

We will be back better than ever!



Our 2022 Cullen Fellows application opens September 1st, 2021. Visit our website to learn more about our Cullen Fellows Program and click the button below to view our application process.

[Cullen Fellows Timeline](#)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & LINKEDIN

