

## **Q&A for Expanding Access to Arts Funding in WNY**

### **I usually receive NYSCA funds through a Statewide Community Regrant site (SCR), am I eligible to apply for these funds?**

No, unfortunately, nonprofits that received funds from NYSCA in 2020, 2021 or 2022 are not eligible for this funding source. This ineligibility includes nonprofits receiving funds directly from NYSCA whether for capital, general operating and/or program; and/or NYSCA funds distributed through NYSCA's *Statewide Community Regrant Sites (SCRs)* through annual cycles and/or special cycles in 2020, 2021 or 2022.

### **What counties should an organization be based in to apply for these funds?**

We are seeking arts-focused applications from 501c3 organization that benefit the residents of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming counties (in New York State).

### **I'm not a 501c3 organization, can I apply?**

Unfortunately, for legal and tax reasons, Cullen Foundation can only accept and fund applications from 501c3 organizations. We encourage individual artists and/or arts groups to find a 501c3 partner and/or fiscal sponsor to partner with to access/apply for this grant fund. More details on fiscal sponsors are available on our website under the program webpage heading "Additional Resources."

### **What is the source of these funds and why is Cullen Foundation involved?**

The funds are from New York State. Cullen Foundation is partnering with New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to regrant the funds in WNY with a goal of increasing access to arts funding and programming across the six-county area.

### **Will this program be available every year?**

No, this is a special, one-time funding opportunity.

### **Our nonprofit would like to apply, but we need access to artists to provide the arts experiences and activities we have in mind, can you help with that?**

We hope so! We are working with WNY's *Statewide Community Regrant sites (SCRs)* in the six counties to develop a basic matchmaking tool to help nonprofits access local artistic talent to ensure you can bring high-quality programming to your audiences. Look for this tool on our website under the program webpage heading "Additional Resources."

### **How do I apply for this grant?**

Click on the link to Cullen Foundation's grant portal, **create an account** if you don't already have one, and complete the Eligibility Quiz. If you qualify, you'll be given access to the application. Remember to submit by June 22, 2022. The portal link is here:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=thecullenfoundation>

### **I'm having trouble with the online grant portal, can someone help me?**

Yes, if you need help creating an account, resetting your username or password, downloading the budget template, resetting the eligibility quiz, or anything else, please email us here and a Cullen staff member will get in touch with you.

### **What's the deadline to apply?**

The online portal accepts applications up until 11:59 PM on June 22, 2022.

### **How long will it take my organization to complete this application?**

There are four (4) *Eligibility Test* questions and about 20 questions in the *Application* itself. It may take you one to two hours to complete and having an established *Project Budget* will facilitate your completion and lessen the time you need to complete the Application.

### **How much can apply for?**

The maximum grant amount is \$5,000.

### **Can I apply for more than one grant?**

No, we request one application per 501c3 please.

### **Who decides if a grant will be made?**

A panel of emerging arts leaders will review submitted applications and determine recipients of the special NYSCA funds.

### **When do the grant activities need to take place?**

Grantees must use the funds for approved programs and activities between **September 1, 2022** and **August 31, 2023**.

### **Do the Cullen Foundation's usual grant criteria apply?**

The eligibility criteria for this one-time opportunity are specific to this re-grant partnership, and therefore, Cullen Foundation's usual eligibility do not apply.

### **My organization received other sources of Cullen Foundation; can we apply for this grant?**

Yes, so long as you have not received any sources of NYSCA funding in 2020, 2021 and/or 2022.

### **Can I talk to a NYSCA staff member about this?**

Cullen Foundation is staffing the process and can best assist you. Let us know how we can help you:

- Nick Schifano at [nschifano@thecullenfoundation.org](mailto:nschifano@thecullenfoundation.org)
- Jess Cristiano at [jcristiano@thecullenfoundation.org](mailto:jcristiano@thecullenfoundation.org)
- Florine Luhr at [fluhr@thecullenfoundation.org](mailto:fluhr@thecullenfoundation.org)