

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
The Honorable Jon S. Corzine, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
The Honorable Nina Mitchell Wells, Secretary of State

THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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THE NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

*A small slice of government
enhancing community life
everywhere in our state*

*The mission of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts
is to improve the quality of life of this state, its people
and communities by helping the arts to flourish.*

The Council fulfills this mission in a variety of ways:

- As an investor in cultural organizations and programs that provide a broad range of public benefits;
- As a leader in building greater cultural participation and stronger, more vibrant and healthy communities;
- As an agent and advocate for superior education of our youth and people of all ages in and through the arts;
- As a provider of tools, knowledge, and professional development to help artists and cultural institutions do their very best and give their most to people and communities;
- As a broker and builder of partnerships between the arts and all the many sectors of New Jersey life and commerce for which the arts have something valuable to contribute.

As a division in the Department of State, established by 1966 enabling legislation, the Council is composed of 17 Governor-appointed New Jerseyans who serve rotating 3-year terms. Joining them are 3 ex-officio members that include the Secretary of State, a member of the NJ State Senate and a member of the NJ State Assembly. The Council sets policy and makes all resource allocation decisions in open public meetings held six times a year in various locations throughout the state. Council funding derives primarily from an annual appropriation of the State Legislature and an annual Partnership Grant from the National Endowment for

the Arts. Under an Executive Director appointed by the Council, the staff is organized in effective teams to develop and administer programs, provide technical assistance and service to the field and develop partnerships and collaborations that expand the resources of the agency.

The Council's many support programs and services are developed under a carefully crafted strategic long range plan that is cast in the context of Arts Plan New Jersey, an overarching blueprint for a better New Jersey through and for the arts. Informed by thousands of New Jerseyans from all walks of life, Arts Plan NJ recognizes and promotes the many instrumental public values that the arts help create for people and communities: better schools, revitalized downtowns, business attraction and retention, bolstered tourism, physical and emotional healing, and care for our elders. It also celebrates the unique and powerful intrinsic values of the arts to engage, inspire, motivate, comfort, teach tolerance and understanding, commemorate, memorialize, reveal truth, beautify, and help us express our most fundamental beliefs.

All of the programs and services of the Council focus its modest financial and human resources on enabling the cultural community of New Jersey to create those public values for the benefit of all New Jerseyans. The Council does so in ways that express its own set of public values: equal access, fair decision-making based on independent evaluation, uniform criteria and funding principles, and full public accountability. A great many of its programs and services are carried out in partnership and collaborations with literally dozens of other organizations statewide.

Support for organizations, their arts programs, operations and advancement

- General Operating Support: multi-year matching grants to nonprofit arts organizations;*
- General Programming Support: multi-year matching grants to nonprofit organizations for ongoing arts programming;*
- Arts Project Support: annual matching grants for arts projects of nonprofit organizations;*
- Financial and Operational Stabilization Grants (for the NJ Cultural Trust): annual, non-matching grants to build operational capacity;*
- Critical Financial Services: analysis and grant support to address challenges that threaten the viability of grantee organizations.*

Support for the arts in the community

- Local Arts Program: multi-year grants to County Arts Agencies for local arts development programs and services including grants to local arts groups and projects;*
- Local Arts Staffing Initiative: grants to County Arts Agencies to boost operational capacity;
- Arts in Community Support: matching grants for collaborative projects that connect the arts in meaningful ways to their communities and support community cultural planning;
- Artists in Community Program: grants to support artist residencies in community and cultural organization settings throughout the mid-Atlantic region;*
- Folk Arts Center Development: annual funding for field research and program development;
- Southern New Jersey Staffing and Other Initiatives: funding to bolster the capacity of southern-based organizations and the growth and visibility of the arts in this region;*
- Family Week at the Theatre: annual support for the work of the NJ Theater Alliance to bring children and families into theatres through specialized programs and services.*

Support for arts education

- Arts Education Special Initiatives: multi-year, matching grants to discipline specific arts groups for growth of school-based arts education programming that is fundamental to the curriculum;
- Artists In Education Program: placement of professional teaching artists in long-term (20 -100 days) in-school residencies both statewide and with emphasis on greater Camden;*
- The New Jersey Writers Project: placement of professional poets, playwrights and prose writers in short-term (5-8 days) in-school residencies;
- Artists Teacher Institute: annually, two 10-day institutes for professional development in the arts for teachers;*
- The NJ Arts Education Census Project: statewide survey of the status of arts education in all NJ public schools to create the NJ Arts Education Information and Resource Center;*
- The Arts Create Excellent Schools Initiative: work in pilot schools and surrounding consortia for successful models of arts-infused curriculum;*
- Arts Education Summits: periodic gatherings of arts education leaders and other sectors to address priority issues.*

Support for the development, training and celebration of artists

- Artists' Fellowships: annual awards to creative artists recognizing artistic excellence;*
- Folk Arts Apprenticeships: annual awards to talented apprentice artists to preserve traditional/folk arts by studying with master artists;
- The Arts Inclusion Program: the commissioning and installation of artwork in state-financed construction projects across the state;
- Artist Slide Registry: a registry of over 6,000 photographic slides of artists' work;
- Projects Serving Artists: annual matching grant support to organizations for projects advancing the work of artists in communities;
- NJ Arts Annuals: annual exhibitions in fine arts and crafts at major NJ Museums;*

- Fellowship Showcases: exhibitions and performance showcases in fine arts, dance and writing by Council fellowship award winners;*
- Professional Development Seminars: annual regional seminars on topics of relevance to the professional development of New Jersey artists;*
- The South Jersey Space Bank: web housed, searchable database on spaces and venues throughout the region available for artists and arts activity;*
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts: a cosponsored project of the Council to provide affordable legal services to artists and arts organizations.*

Building participation and sharing knowledge

- Discover Jersey Arts: a multifaceted statewide arts marketing campaign to increase awareness of and participation in the arts in New Jersey (www.jerseyarts.com);*
- State of the Arts: a weekly arts magazine coproduced on NJN public television;*
- Arts Plan Implementation Project: leadership in garnering endorsement for and mobilizing and measuring progress made under Arts Plan New Jersey* (www.artsplannj.com);
- E-News: a monthly electronic news brief on the impacts of Council-supported activities as they relate to topics of high priority interest to state and local leaders;
- NJSCA Web-Site: a dynamic gateway to information and knowledge about the Council, its programs, events and the impacts of its work and that of others (www.njartscouncil.org);
- Knowledge Bank (in development): a searchable database of information and knowledge about best practices in the field, most current research, and the impact and outcome of arts activity;
- The Arts Access Task Force: cosponsored with the NJ Theatre Alliance, a battery of information and technical services to help the arts community fulfill the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and make the arts fully accessible to persons with disabilities;*
- Arts Council Internship Program: 12-week paid internships at the Council for college students pursuing careers in arts management.*

All of the grant programs included in the above roster of programs and services work in similar ways to assure equal access, fairness, funding by principle and public accountability.

- Guidelines for each type of grant specify eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria to measure excellence.
- The applications ask all applicants the same series of questions and require the same submissions of information, data and support materials in each program.
- Applications are evaluated by independent panels of experts in the applicant's respective field and strictly against the published criteria.
- The consensus comments of the panel are recorded and the applications are ranked accordingly.
- All of this information is forwarded to the Council for deliberation using funding principles it adopts for the formation of recommendations and subsequent action by the Council in public session at its July annual meeting.
- Grantees are issued contracts and required to file appropriate progress and final reports on activities, expenditures and outcomes along with post-grant audits.
- All grantees must be current with their Charities Registration and State of NJ Corporate Report filings.

For further information on how the New Jersey State Council on the Arts can help you, contact us at:

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*Indicates Programs carried out through partnerships and collaborations.