



STAMFORD

Arts & Culture Grant

Office of Economic Development



**CITY OF
STAMFORD**
innovating since 1641

Background Information

- For over 25 years, the City of Stamford has generously pledged grant dollars to the cultural institutions in Stamford through the Community Arts Partnership Program (CAPP) Grant.
- After the Office of Economic Development & the Arts & Culture Commission took over the CAPP Grant in 2017, it was renamed the Stamford Arts & Culture (SAC) Grant.
- Since then, numerous enhancements were made to the grant:
 - Having an application in Spanish and allowing for Spanish submissions
 - Increasing the eligibility by allowing fiduciary agents to apply for small groups and artists
 - Streamlining the application process for greater access
 - Having a transparent review process that includes 10 arts and cultural professionals
 - Actively promoting the grant to further expand the number of applicants, including thru press releases, e-blasts, social media, website postings, and in newspapers
 - Expanding the criteria to include cultural programming, in addition to artistic programming
- New organizations have formed or began arts programming thanks to the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant
 - Stamford Pride, Black Lives Matter Stamford, Editorial Letramia, Stamford Murals, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Ecuadorian Civic Committee



2022 Program Overview

- SAC Grant 2022 received 20 applicants, the largest number in recent years
 - 40% increase since economic development started managing the program
- The most diverse applicant pool ever
 - 7 brand new applicants
 - 6 Latino & Hispanic cultural programs
 - 2 Black & African American history-oriented programs
 - 1 LGBTQ+ program
 - 1 Jewish historic program
- 90% of programs are free to the public including
 - Ballet Under the Stars – Connecticut Ballet
 - Drag Performances – Stamford Pride
 - Holiday Brass & Organ Concert – First Presbyterian Church
 - Dia de los Muertos Celebration – Latino Foundation of Stamford
- Average grant amount was \$5,400
 - Largest grant amount was \$7,500
 - Smallest grant amount was \$2,000

Proposed Changes 2022/23

- During his administration, Mayor David Martin tasked me with overseeing the Community Youth Music Program Grant.
 - Youth Music Grant is a very specific grant that only has 3 eligible applicants every year
 - The 3 applicants split \$83,500 from the Youth Music Grant
- By comparison, 20 applicants split \$108,000 in this past year's Stamford Arts & Culture (SAC) grant.
- The SAC Grant allows for greater equity and promotes diversity
 - Funds all types of artistic and cultural programming, not just youth focused music programs
 - Artistic: Visual, Music, Dance, Theatre, Literature, Film, New Media
 - Cultural: Latino & Hispanic, Black & African American, LGBTQ+, and others
- The SAC Grant is a well-established program with a thorough, transparent, and fair review process by the 9 members of the Arts & Culture Commission
 - Commission members are professionals in the artistic and cultural sector



Proposed Changes 2022/23



- After careful review and consultation with Mayor Simmons' office, it was decided to fold the Youth Music Grant into the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant.
 - All previous applicants of the Youth Music Grant are eligible for funding through the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant and will be notified of this change.
- The SAC Grant funding request is \$191,500. This is not an increase in funding, but a merging of the two separate account lines.
 - Last year's SAC Grant was \$108,000. (Line 01460568919)
 - Last year's Youth Music Grant was \$83,500. (Line 01460568928)
 - Quick math: $\$108,000 + \$83,500 = \$191,500$
- Thank you for your hard work and for continuing to fund Stamford-based artistic and cultural programming.
- For full details about the SAC Grant visit: StamfordCT.gov/SACgrant
- For further questions email John Varamo: JVaramo@stamfordct.gov