

PROGRAM/DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE
February 2024 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Education Action Area

Recommendation is supported by:

- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational

Community Programs: \$3,123

Out-of-School-Time summer learning opportunities in the Greater Rochester area increase safe places, positive relationships, and enrich activities for youth.

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Racial Equity Action Area

Recommendation is supported by:

- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational

Community Programs: \$5,000

Production of a multimedia State of Black Rochester report for release in 2024, providing a 10-year update on the state of the Black community in Rochester.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Arts Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Anne McQuay Arts and Cultural Fund II*: A bequest from the unofficial "Mayor of Gibbs Street" benefits Rochester's music, dance, and cultural institutions.
- *Castle Fund for Music Education*: This was created through the will of John W. Castle, Jr. to support music education programs in Monroe County.
- *Christine Mertz Dear Fund*: Provides support for local arts organizations.
- *Clara T. Wolfard Fund*: Created to support literature, fine arts, art education and environmental protection.
- *Clinton O. and Mary Steadman Fund*: Created to benefit cultural purposes in the Rochester, NY area.
- *Community Arts Fund*: Supports small and emerging arts organizations.
- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational purposes.
- *Dolores and Philip Neivert Ages and Stages Fund*: Established by longtime supporters of the Community Foundation to improve quality of life for the community's residents.
- *Dorothy Kitzing and Elizabeth Kitzing Fund*: These sisters made the Community Foundation one of five beneficiaries of a Charitable Remainder Trust to establish this fund for development of the performing arts and literacy training.
- *Esther Usdane Memorial Fund*: For community theater in memory of a woman who loved it.
- *Fox-Knoeferl Family Fund*: To help provide research and care for individuals with developmental disabilities, Parkinson's disease, and diabetes.
- *Gouvernet Arts Fund*: To support the arts in our region, especially the performing arts.

- *Greater Rochester Women's Fund: To support programs which encourage advancement and opportunities for economic, educational, physical, emotional, social, artistic and personal growth of women and girls.*
- *Joan and Harold Feinbloom Fund: To support youth and families, including arts and culture programming and violence prevention initiatives.*
- *Louise Hoyt Klinke Endowment fund: to provide support for local arts and cultural organizations forever.*
- *Mark & Barbara Hargrave Hard of Hearing Clarity Fund: Created to help organizations assist those with partial hearing loss.*
- *Rodney Hatch Family Fund: A charitable remainder trust established this fund to support the arts. To distribute \$10,000 to Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra for its Sustainability Initiative*
- *Thomas and Mildred Tulloch Fund: To benefit children and the arts.*

A Magical Journey Thru Stages: \$5,000

A Magical Journey Thru Stages' will expand their offerings to include focused masterclasses and a spring production that will cultivate theater skills during school breaks and further the mission of building confidence, teamwork, and leadership abilities.

The Center for Youth: \$5,000

The Center for Youth will expand their Strings for Success' programming to technical workshops and student showcases furthering an exemplary template reaching youth too often excluded from traditional creative development channels.

Christ Church: \$5,000

Christ Church's one-of-a-kind Schola Cantorum program has provided unique music mentorship opportunities to both beginners and experts to intentionally create community through collaborative continuity. Funds will support visiting experts and rare instruments to further stretch artistic limits.

DEEP Arts, Inc.: \$5,000

DEEP Arts employs interactive multimedia theater to raise awareness around enduring social issues often overlooked. The current project "Moses Man Finding Home" spotlights Holocaust survivor stories connecting this genocide with the ongoing global refugee crisis.

Eastman Community Music School: \$5,000

ECMS will launch ENCORE: an intergenerational chorus for Monroe County residents wrestling early dementia alongside volunteers spanning students to seniors. Weekly rehearsals incorporate social time for supportive relationships to form before practicing for their uplifting community concerts.

Flower City Arts Center: \$5,000

Participants of FCAC's Expanding the Field, an intensive recruitment program, gain technical skills from photography to bookbinding under BIPOC mentors who also lead tours of local colleges, events and design firms, elucidating real-world applications often obscured. Students collaboratively tackle commissions conveying cultural calls for equity while completing consciously-themed personal portfolios.

Geneseo Community Players Inc: \$4,982

This proposal will underwrite musician and production costs for a celebratory 2024 musical galvanizing the first full-scale show since 2019 and a sponsored-ticket program to underwrite a portion of 380 tickets.

Holland Purchase Historical Society: \$5,000

The Holland Land Office Museum's portable "museums-in-a-box" program brings aspects of the past directly to K-12 classrooms for schoolkids countywide who can't all visit their underground vaults. Each mini-exhibit matches an era like pioneer farming or industrial revolution with clothing, equipment, and photographs actually used by ancestors before them.

Interlaken Public Library: \$3,000

This proposal plans a 50-week arts and culture series steered by specialized local artists towards rejuvenating elders through immersive Eastern traditions that encompass mind-body healing. Weekly workshops intend to increase activity levels by spurring intercultural exchange and intergenerational connection conveying our wider world's interwoven nature.

Jazz90.1 WGMC (Greece Community Broadcasting): \$5,000

Jazz90.1 Cultural Programming aims to bring biographical and educational information throughout Black History Month and Women's History Month for audiences who would otherwise not find similar programming on any other local broadcast outlet.

Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance: \$3,500

The Debut Artist Series presents award-winning and diverse young artists in venues in the Joseph Avenue area, including the newly renovated Lincoln Branch Library and Baden Street Settlement to introduce neighborhood students and families to traditional classical works and contemporary arrangements from movies.

Main Street Arts: \$5,000

Main Street Arts' free gallery displays and affordable \$10 workshops, tailored for all ages, intend to spur grassroots participation in the visual arts and nurture local talent across rural Ontario County. Offerings spanning from exhibition tours to hands-on artmaking provide community enrichment 30 miles from comparable centers.

Mission Fulfilled 2030: \$5,000

Mission Fulfilled's Pillars of Justice mural convenes youth to co-create public art celebrating civil rights champions alongside the late John Lewis while igniting unity. Located inside Rochester's Lewis Building memorializing his seminal activism, communal artmaking builds bonds that bridge divides to advance equity through creative dialogue.

Mozaic: \$5,000

The proposed Seneca County Arts Education Program will bring in community artists to teach various art forms and help expand the skills and art education of 60 individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and other barriers. Quarterly art shows are planned for the artwork to promote inclusion and allow the artists to showcase what they have made.

Pegasus Early Music: \$4,000

Pegasus Early Music's Young Artists component, Pegasus Rising, provides a unique opportunity for young committed musicians to receive mentoring, experience performing and educating, and a fee for their work thereby encouraging future early music performers and educators. This proposal will greatly expand the scope of Pegasus Rising audiences through an increased number of artists, free concerts, and venues.

PUSH Physical Theatre - Professor Aardvark: \$5,000

Professor Aardvark makes interactive shows using physical theater tailored for multi-generational impact on social issues. Recent piece "INDOORS" playfully investigates

isolationism's soaring interior walls separating homes from communities using a metaphoric revolving door sculpture. This energetic production intends to reach general community members, students, and marginalized groups by traveling to diverse local event sites.

Prosper Rochester: \$5,000

Prosper Rochester's "No Bullies in Our House" coloring book leverages youth voice, cultural insights, and the arts' therapeutic power to address alarming rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation in Monroe County. This innovative approach tackles barriers to academic achievement and fullest participation by helping trauma-impacted youth process adversity.

Publick Musick: \$5,000

Publick Musick, a period-instrument ensemble producing historically informed Baroque performances, plans pop-up concerts with integrated talks at accessible community spaces like cafés and retirement centers to provide welcoming on-ramps for foundational music appreciation across generations.

Puerto Rican Festival, Inc.: \$5,000

PRFI, in partnership with Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School and the Town of Irondequoit, will host a weeklong, interactive cultural enrichment workshop for at least 20 children that will teach them how to create their own "Veigigante masks" while they learn the history and tradition of this iconic cultural symbol of Puerto Rico.

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts: \$4,500

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts, in collaboration with ROCmusic, will deliver instrumental lessons to students in 1st – 3rd grade, the majority of whose families are economically disadvantaged and have no access to individual instruction at an early age, as part of a new three to five day before-school program.

ROC Arts United: \$5,000

A part-time coordinator will continue to expand RAU's current work by providing awareness of funding opportunities through its website, take part in overseeing RAU's role in the City of Rochester's "Percent for the Art" program, inform artists about best practices in various operations and administration of arts projects and organizations, and provide connections to available spaces and facilities for programming.

Rochester International Children's Film Festival-The Children's Institute: \$5,000

The Rochester International Children's Film Festival (RICFF) targets underserved students and features non-violent, age-appropriate, artistically excellent films, follow-up art/literacy activities, and hands-on art (based on films) workshops.

Rochester Oratorio Society, Inc: \$4,850

Rochester Oratorio Society reinterprets historical Fisk University choral works conveying messages of empowerment and triumph over adversity. Through ROS' performance, school visits, and video project, the program will celebrate our region's rich and diverse cultural history, increase arts access and engagement for underserved audiences, and increase community knowledge.

Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry: \$5,000

The 12-week summer concert series provides free musical performances by local artists while promoting local businesses, arts, and culture for visitors from all demographic backgrounds. Through increased local and regional attendance, the project aims to invigorate downtown businesses while showcasing the best of Seneca Falls' history, culture, and natural resources.

South East Area Coalition Inc: \$5,000

Mount Hope World Singers (MHWS) is working to build its singing community by acquiring tailored audio learning tools and becoming more accessible to those with low vision, who are blind, or who, for other reasons, find reading written music to be a barrier to becoming part of the choir.

Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach, Inc.: \$5,000

The Arts & Nature Project, a critical component of Spiritus Christi's Family Reunification Program, provides additional methods of healing and coping by offering creative outlets matching residents' interests – from storytelling to dance – to foster empowerment for those overcoming compounded marginalization and trauma.

Teaching Artists ROC: \$5,000

Alma de Mexico, a recent addition to TAROC's diverse roster, will debut an engaging bilingual puppetry program that spotlights Mayan and Aztec tales across seven libraries located in rural/agricultural communities in Genesee, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, and Wayne counties.

The Timothy M. Draper Center for Dance Education: \$5,000

Draper Center for Dance Education's Ballet Jump-start! program provides free, weekly one-hour dance classes to 3 and 4 year olds in Monroe County and the surrounding areas. Free access has not only increased the number of students in the program but also expanded the demographics of the classes and better represents the community.

Webster Arboretum: \$5,000

The Webster Arboretum Poetry Trail fosters inclusive community arts engagement while celebrating the region's rich cultural tapestry. The Poetry Trail will provide a new public arts platform for the arboretum and region, and for poets from schools, poetry groups, senior citizens, and diverse cultural groups from throughout the region.

Blackfriars Theatre: \$6,000

Blackfriars Theatre will end its 74th Season with an immersive production of the iconic and powerful Broadway musical, *Cabaret*, in May 2024.

BOA Editions, Ltd: \$12,000

Through the unique focus of Blessing the Boats Selections, BOA Editions seeks to amplify, celebrate, and promote the work of important writers whose voices have previously been systemically erased or excluded from the literary canon.

Borinquen Dance Theatre: \$6,370

Borinquen Dance Theatre provides an interactive, three-hour Puerto Rican dance and cultural experience at BDT's new dance studio at One East Avenue for four groups of 30 children from four Rochester City School District (RCSD) middle and high schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Finger Lakes Opera, Inc.: \$45,000

Finger Lakes Opera seeks support for the following two initiatives: the world premiere rehearsal and performance process for "Two Corners" and for continued bridge funding for Young Artist Program (YAP), which will allow the company to continue providing, and expand upon, engagement programming throughout Monroe and Ontario counties.

fivebyfive: \$8,816

fivebyfive presents its 2024-2025 Season “Our Stories” with two programs that explore the power of story, help community members to understand and connect with others, remember things, and build community.

Garth Fagan Dance: \$50,000

This grant will provide operational support to sustain its dance company and school through FY2023-2024 as it rebuilds from pandemic setbacks and key staff losses.

Gateways Music Festival: \$50,000

Season two of Gateways Radio produced in partnership with WXXI, Rochester’s local classical music station, and Gateways Chamber Players and Gateways Brass Collective touring dates in spring 2024.

Genesee Valley Council on the Arts: \$6,000

The Creative Artists Migrant Program Services (CAMPS) will provide art workshops and exhibits showcasing Hispanic and Haitian farmworkers across eight counties, fostering inclusion through cultural exchange.

Geneva Music Festival: \$7,500

Geneva Music Festival (GMF) will present eight to ten chamber, jazz, and crossover music concerts performed by world-class professional musicians May 18-June 9, 2024, two free community outreach concerts for families and six free engagement and outreach programs for children and seniors.

PUSH Physical Theatre, Inc.: \$10,000

“Hyde,” a new work by PUSH Physical Theatre inspired by *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, will use multi-disciplinary art forms – including physical theatre’s nonverbal storytelling techniques, spoken word, video projection, and other technologies – to explore age-old questions of morality and human behavior.

Rochester City Ballet: \$22,520

Emerging choreographer and talented artist Aldo Katton Santiago Mendez will create a new contemporary ballet piece featuring Rochester City Ballet dancers to be presented in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month during September and October of 2024.

Rochester Fringe Festival, Inc.: \$60,000

The 2024 Rochester Fringe Festival will take place September 10-21, 2024, giving the community unique, thought-provoking, and awe-inspiring performances – particularly in public spaces – with more than a quarter of shows offered free of charge.

Rochester Institute of Technology: \$10,000

“Bilingual Titus Andronicus” is a professional Deaf/hearing theater production slated for summer 2024 that explores themes of language, power, and community.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra: \$30,000

The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra’s (RPO) education programs will serve tens of thousands of students of all abilities through programs including tailored concert programs, digital education content, targeted programs including OPUS (Orchestral Program for Urban Students) and the Care & Wellness Initiative.

The Avenue Blackbox Theatre: \$11,900

The Avenue Blackbox Theatre seeks to continue providing space and paid creative opportunities for artists to develop and share their artistic skills with the community.

The Local Sound Collaborative: \$7,480

The Music Makers Scholarship Program provides music education program to children ages two through six at low/no-cost, with the goal of earlier music programming leading to lifelong love and engagement in music-related activities.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Environmental Justice and Sustainability Action Area

Recommendation is supported by:

- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational purposes.
- *H Fund*: To support environmental programs

Climate Solutions Accelerator: \$70,000

The Climate Solutions Accelerator seeks funding to continue serving as the backbone organization for the Genesee-FLX Climate Collective's efforts to equitably implement the region's Climate Action Strategy.