

**PROGRAM/DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2025 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
*Promoting Successful Aging Action Area***

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Plumb Miller Fund*: To benefit youth and preserve the dignity of the elderly.
- *Fund for the Aging in Memory of Don and Evelyn Kimball*: To support the needs of older citizens.

Catholic Charities Family & Community Services: \$75,000

This project seeks to maintain critical aging services for 1,000 vulnerable older adults by addressing basic needs through transportation, care coordination, and support services in response to United Way funding reductions.

**GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
*Arts and Culture Action Area***

Recommendations supported by:

- *Clinton O. and Mary Steadman Fund*: To benefit cultural purposes in Rochester.
- *Community Impact Fund*: Unrestricted fund for general charitable and educational purposes.
- *Dorothy Kitzing and Elizabeth Kitzing Fund*: For development of the performing arts and literacy training.
- *Elizabeth Holahan's Children Fund*: To benefit city children.
- *Esther Usdane Memorial Fund*: For community theater.
- *Fund for the Fine and Performing Arts*: To promote the growth and development of arts organizations.
- *Gouvernet Arts Fund*: To support the arts in our region, especially the performing arts.
- *Jazz Street Fund*: To support free public jazz performances during the Rochester International Jazz Festival.
- *Rodney Hatch Family Fund*: To support the arts.

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

Finger Lakes Opera (FLO) will continue their DEI initiatives through engagement events leading up to FLO's production of Black composer Joseph Bologne's "The Anonymous Lover," and they will expand the Young Artist Program (the impetus behind establishing a year-round presence in three counties).

GENESEE-ORLEANS REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL: \$44,000

This two-prong application includes a project to create a cultural plan for Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming counties; comprising an overall plan for an interconnected regional system. Additionally, funding will support GO ART!'s annual cultural festivals—Dia de los Muertos, Steampunk Festival, Ramble Explore ART! and Music Festival, and Erie Canal Arts Festival—that celebrate regional diversity, foster community engagement, and provide accessible arts experiences for underserved communities in the Genesee-Orleans region.

Geneva Music Festival: \$8,500

Geneva Music Festival will present eight to ten chamber, jazz, and crossover music concerts performed by world-class professional musicians between May 18- June 8, 2025, two free

community outreach concerts for families, and six free youth outreach programs in schools, community centers, and after school programs.

George Eastman Museum: \$10,000

The Art of Music in the Movies is a collaboration between the George Eastman Museum, the Beal Institute for Film Music and Contemporary Media, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and SoundTraX Music Festival (Eastman School of Music), which offers a series of 12 curated film screenings in the Dryden Theatre celebrating diverse cinema composers and musicians, and presenting thoughtful discussion about the ways in which film scores, some crafted by historically underrepresented groups, shape the viewer's experience.

Geva Theatre Center: \$25,000

The Ground on Which I Stand, inspired by a speech playwright August Wilson delivered at the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) conference on June 26, 1996, builds upon Geva Theatre's fall 2024 production of Wilson's, "How I Learned What I Learned" and is composed of three components: Race & Theatre Symposium, commission of a new musical about Frederick Douglass, and production of Baron Vaughn's new autobiographical one-man show.

Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance: \$10,000

The Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance (JAACA) provides free, inclusive arts programs for underserved youth and families in Rochester's Northeast Quadrant, fostering community pride, breaking barriers to access, and catalyzing transformation through initiatives like the Debut Artist Series and Artist Showcase, which bring world-class, BIPOC, and local talent to inspire artistic expression and empowerment.

PUSH Physical Theatre Inc: \$10,000

PUSH Physical Theatre will develop "Red Ball," an interactive performance exploring play and creativity for children and adults that integrates physical theatre—storytelling using non-traditional movement, acting, and dance—with technology to honor the wildness of children's play and ignite creativity for all.

Rochester City Ballet: \$10,000

Anastasia is a two-act ballet making its world premiere in Rochester, marking a significant moment for both Rochester City Ballet and The Society for Chamber Music in Rochester. This collaboration represents the first of its kind between these two esteemed local organizations.

Rochester Folk Art Guild: \$10,000

The Rochester Folk Art Guild's Lectures on the Lawn series offers free arts and cultural presentations in the Finger Lakes region, featuring a diverse lineup of speakers, musicians, and artists who engage the community in meaningful discussions on art, justice, and cultural identity while fostering connections through immersive performances and collaborative experiences.

Rochester Fringe Festival, Inc.: \$70,000

The 2025 Rochester Fringe Festival will take place September 2-13, 2025, 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 International Jazz Festival: \$40,000

The Rochester International Jazz Festival (RIJF) seeks support to expand its commitment to inclusivity, education, and enhancing the quality of life for the Rochester community. The nine-day, European-style festival features performances across 20 local venues, with both free and ticketed events that draw 200,000 attendees each year. This inclusive format allows attendees

to explore jazz at every level—from world-renowned headliners to emerging talents and high school bands—while enjoying Rochester’s central cultural spaces.

Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry: \$10,000

The Seneca Falls Mural Project and Celebration seeks to install one of two murals in Seneca Falls on the side of the Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry, followed by a celebration of local arts, culture, and history, along the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and downtown Seneca Falls, which will demonstrate the potential and economic impact of public arts projects in our community.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Environmental Justice and Sustainability Action Area

Recommendations 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 support its role as the backbone organization for the Genesee-FLX Climate Collective.