

PROGRAM/DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE
March 2025 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Education Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Feinbloom Family Fund*: A local family converted a supporting foundation to this type of fund to carry on their philanthropic legacy of supporting youth and families, including arts and culture programming and violence prevention initiatives.
- *Helen Gladys Ritter Mohr Fund*: To benefit children.
- *Lorma E. Gardner Endowment Fund II*: provide ongoing support to programs and organizations that support children.
- *Summer Transportation Fund*: Support transportation costs for youth summer programs.

Community Programs: \$150,000

The Greater Rochester Afterschool & Summer Alliance (GRASA) has expanded its Out of School Time (OST) common application process to serve the broader region, receiving applications from rural counties, demonstrating increased reach and impact across the Greater Rochester area. This expansion ensures more youth have access to safe, enriching summer learning opportunities through a coordinated regional funding approach.

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Poverty / Upward Mobility Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Sarah Collins Fund* - Addresses the needs of oppressed and marginalized people.
- *Vincent and Marjorie Olney Fund* - For the benefit of residents of Ontario County, NY.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester: \$5,000

Driven2Success seeks to expand its successful Monroe County transportation program into Ontario and Wayne counties, where it will address transportation barriers for low-to-moderate income residents through financial education, counseling, and lending partnerships that help participants secure affordable vehicles for employment while reducing transportation costs.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Arts & Culture Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Christine Mertz Dear Fund*: Provides support for local arts organizations.
- *Clinton O. and Mary Steadman Fund*: Created to benefit cultural purposes in the Rochester, NY area.
- *Community Arts Fund*: For small and emerging arts organizations
- *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.
- *Gouvernet Arts Fund*: To support the arts in our region, especially the performing arts.
- *James and Olive Edmunds Memorial Fund*: To support arts and culture in Brockport, Sweden and Clarkson.

- *Louise Hoyt Klink Endowment fund*: To provide support for local arts and cultural organizations forever.
- *Rodney Hatch Family Fund*: To support the arts.
- *Ruth and Manville Harris Fund*: To support cultural endeavors.

Artists Unlimited Inc.: \$3,500

This proposal seeks to support Artists Unlimited's annual production, which was "Beauty & the Beast" last fall, featuring community members with developmental disabilities. This project provides a platform for these individuals to showcase their talents, build confidence, and meaningfully engage with the broader community.

Association for Encouragement of Children's Creativity: \$3,000

Magic Dragon is an educational, quarterly print magazine with each issue presenting work of 65-75 children and includes poetry, short stories, essays, and art in all media. The magazine gives children an opportunity to display their work while inspiring teachers and parents to nurture the creative expression of the children with whom they are in contact.

Canandaigua Lake Chamber Music Festival: \$5,000

ChamberFest brings live music directly to senior communities through new partnerships with Ferris Hills, Cloverwood, and The Highlands, featuring 30–45-minute performances by festival artists. They will also host a free, family-friendly concert where children are encouraged to explore classical music in a relaxed atmosphere without worrying about noise or interruptions.

Clyde-Savannah Public Library: \$4,700

Clyde-Savannah Public Library serves as the primary cultural resource center for the Clyde and Savannah communities and for outlying areas. "Musicians - Time to Shine" is a free musical project that allows participants of all ages to create two songs; record group vocals, solos, and harmonies over a full track of instruments; and create their own CD covers. The participants will perform their work at the library for family, peers, and the community.

Cordancia Inc.: \$5,000

Cordancia Chamber Orchestra will present two classical music concerts featuring music by living composers from Brazil: Clarice Assad and João Rocha. In addition, the concerts will include a collaboration with Capoeira com Expressão, a Rochester-based academy that teaches and performs capoeira, which combines martial arts with music and dance.

Friends of the Three Bears: \$2,250

Friends of the Three Bears works to preserve the (historic Seneca County) Courthouse Complex, as well as offer art, music, and other educational programs/events, and provide historical building tours for visitors. By offering classes of varying skill levels, they plan to offer free art programs for multi-generational attendance.

Genesee Country Village & Museum: \$5,000

"Moveable Museum" outreach programs in schools and around the community bring the museum and its collections to the public if they cannot or have not yet had a chance to visit the museum. Through interactive group discussions and guided exploration, these programs help expand awareness of underrepresented regional history.

Geneseo Jam Fund: \$3,000

Geneseo Jam Fund seeks funding to produce a series of seven biweekly, community-focused outdoor summer concerts at a national historic landmark: the lawn of the Wadsworth Homestead in Geneseo. In this second year of concerts, it will eliminate a \$10 admission fee to boost accessibility to live music for residents.

Geneva Historical Society: \$1,500

Geneva Historical Society seeks support for three temporary exhibits featuring local artists, seven art-themed programs, and a "Get & Paint" project with interactive painting activities for all ages. Additionally, GHS will work toward its goal to add more contemporary art and diverse artists to its collection.

Grupo Cultural Latinos En Rochester: \$3,000

This proposal includes 12 months of free, once a week bilingual art and cultural opportunities for all ages at Gantt Community and at Perinton Recreation for participants with and without disabilities. It will also lead one-month exhibitions at Casa Hispana for Pride Month and for Hispanic Heritage Month at the Central Library Children's Center.

Ibero-American Development Corporation: \$5,000

The International Plaza enriches Rochester's cultural landscape by hosting free, inclusive events that celebrate the area's diversity and promote community well-being. The programming spans from Latinx Pride celebrations in June to Juneteenth festivities, while collaborations with Geva Theatre and the Black Power Marketplace during Malcolm X weekend showcase local BIPOC artists and performers.

Main Street 56 Theater/Batavia Players: \$3,000

Batavia Players is one of a handful of arts organizations located in rural Genesee County, and the only theatre company in that county open to individuals from across the community. Tickets are low priced and productions amplify unique, diverse voices that otherwise would be invisible in the community.

Mount Hope World Singers: \$5,000

Mount Hope World Singers, in collaboration with Christine A. Banna and Logan Barrett, will create an immersive, multi-disciplinary concert exploring the senses through an eclectic range of choral, instrumental, and digital soundscapes from around the world, and animated visuals reflecting both the vastness of the world we inhabit as humans and the wide range of sensory experiences described in Ed Yong's book, *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*.

Movies on a Shoestring: \$3,000

Movies on a Shoestring will present the 67th annual Rochester International Film Festival's four, free programs of curated short films from around the world--live action, documentaries, and animation--at the Dryden Theatre of the George Eastman Museum on May 1st-3rd. Attending filmmakers will participate in a Q&A session with audience members following each program.

Mozaic: \$3,500

Mozaic will bring more music-focused opportunities to individuals with disabilities and other barriers through ukulele and drum circle classes. Participants in the drum circle will showcase their skills through quarterly performances for peers and the wider community. Dance elements will also be incorporated into the drum circle, reflecting the traditions of the cultures studied and enriching the overall experience for participants.

Muffin Theatre Productions LLC: \$3,000

The RocHaha Clown Festival celebrates all styles of clowning and physical theater including mime, puppetry, circus-theater, and more. It is dedicated to bringing in artists from outside of the region, thereby introducing unique, professional, contemporary visual theatre performances that are otherwise rare in the local Rochester-area arts scene.

New York State Ballet Corp: \$5,000

NYSB will present three full ballets per season, alongside sensory-friendly programming, which offers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities an accessible cultural experience. Additionally, NYSB takes ballet out into the community through free mini-performance vignettes at local organizations, festivals, and public venues.

Opera on Tap (Rochester): \$4,500

In collaboration with Suny Brockport, Opera on Tap Rochester will help curate an artistic residency that will afford musical and professional enrichment opportunities through a new music incubator series. This series will play an integral role in commissioning new works by in-house composers, and it will help create masterclasses and workshops that will highlight genre-bending musical interpretations and the correlation between music and the human experience.

PEGASUS EARLY MUSIC: \$3,000

In a concert collaboration combining early music with the music of Indian Carnatic singer Vidita Kanniks, Pegasus will present a genre-bending journey exploring elements of the Indian Classical musical idiom parallel to the cornerstones of Western early baroque music.

Professor Aardvark: \$3,000

"Sketching Russ" is an innovative piece set at the bottom of a wastepaper basket, where the protagonist, Russ, has been discarded by his illustrator and exists solely as a concept. This unique setting is brought to life through a meticulously crafted design, costume, and set, where every element is made from (or made to look like it's made from) paper.

Publick Musick: \$3,000

This proposal will support two programs of 17th- and 18th-century music (one in fall 2025 and one in spring 2026) that will be offered at no cost to audiences in Dansville and Rochester.

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

PRFI is a vibrant celebration that showcases the creativity and cultural richness of local Latino artists, fostering community pride, inclusivity, collaboration, and cross-cultural connections as it promotes knowledge exchange and dynamic networking opportunities while engaging new audiences.

ROC Arts United: \$4,515

Roc Arts United will redesign its website and move it to a more sustainable and interactive platform to better serve Rochester artists and creatives with resources, information, and connections. The funding will support a year of maintenance.

Rochester Oratorio Society: \$4,185

Under the "Arts Connexions" initiative launched in 2022, the Rochester Oratorio Society began presenting intimate performances that showcase BIPOC artists' interpretations of classical and choral music. This funding will enhance the sustainability of the Arts Connexions series as an ongoing component of ROS' work and increases engagement with the arts for underserved communities.

Shake on the Lake: \$5,000

Shake on the Lake will present *The Tempest* at St. Joseph's Park, integrating acting and puppetry to audiences in Rochester in partnership with the Landmark Society of. The themes in *The Tempest* of power and control as well as forgiveness and empathy are important themes that resonate in the world today, and the production includes a talkback with the cast.

Society for Chamber Music in Rochester: \$5,000

SCMR seeks funding for a collaborative project with Rochester City Ballet to produce a new full-length story ballet, *Anastasia*. The ballet will include new choreography; vibrant, historic costumes; and story-inspired musical selections performed live on stage by SCMR musicians.

Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach: \$5,000

The Arts & Nature Project is a critical component of the Family Reunification Program, enhancing its effectiveness by offering additional methods of healing and coping. The project is a critical element of life skills and community building and aligns with an individual's interest in storytelling, art exhibitions, dance, or performance to highlight their lived experiences.

The Dove Block Project: \$5,000

The Dove Block Project Short Film Festival seeks to expand its format from a single day's screening to a three-day film festival featuring judged submissions from around the globe with filmmakers on-hand to present their work as well as short films produced by RIT student-filmmakers and local youth short film productions created in two, free-of-charge summer camp programs.

The Little Theatre: \$5,000

During this 95th-Anniversary Season, the Little aims to offer programming with a renewed focus on arts-based civic engagement through regular and special offerings that appeal to families and diverse communities with a wide variety of free and financially accessible programs. New this year will be programming hosted by the Indigenous People's Day Committee.

The Local Sound Collaborative: \$5,000

The Local Sound Collaborative seeks to invest in local musicians and fund a year of artist showcases, open mic events, and special performances at the Local Sound Collaborative Studio, providing local musicians with opportunities to develop their talents, gain exposure, and build meaningful connections while fostering a vibrant, supportive community.

Worldwide Documentaries, Inc.: \$5,000

"Running To Stand Still - Migrants Search For Hope In The Promised Land," is a documentary examining the complex issue of forced migration at the US/Mexico border. The film humanizes migrants' experiences, countering their "othering" by revealing their identities as community members who live, work, worship, and raise families. The distribution of "Running To Stand Still" will strengthen local volunteer and organizational efforts supporting migrants and refugees in the Finger Lakes region.

Writers & Books: \$5,000

Writers & Books will host three evenings of diverse poetry performances at Rochester's Highland Park Bowl. Building on last year's successful festival that drew 400 attendees, this year's event will feature 12 performances (up from nine) from Black, Latin, Indigenous, Asian American, and LGBTQ+ poets, along with live music.