

PROGRAM/DISTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE
June 2025 GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: CREATE AN EQUITABLE COMMUNITY
Upward Mobility Action Area

Recommendations are supported by:

- *Fund for Self Esteem* - supports projects that increase self-worth.

Literacy Volunteers Ontario-Yates: \$2,997

Literacy Volunteers Ontario-Yates (LVOY) proposes the Career Accelerator program, a pilot initiative designed to equip eight adult learners with essential employment skills to help them secure, maintain, and advance in quality jobs. The program will deliver four interactive workshops covering resume writing, interview skills, workplace etiquette, and financial literacy.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN REGIONAL VITALITY
Arts Action Area

Recommendation supported by:

- *Castle Fund for Music Education*: To support music education programs in Monroe County.
- *Children's Fund*: Supports the needs of young people.
- *Feinbloom Family Fund*: To support youth and families, including arts and culture programming and violence prevention initiatives.
- *Jr. League of Rochester Endowment for Children & Youth Fund*: Meet the needs of children and youth.
- *Korol Family Fund*: To help improve inner-city education, support those in poverty, and provide educational training for job opportunities.
- *Loma Moyer Allen Arts for Youth Fund*: Enables financially needy youth to participate in local arts and cultural programs.
- *Richards Fund*: To support public education in the city.
- *The Elizabeth and Pierce Webb Education Fund*: To support urban education programs.
- *Thomas and Mildred Tulloch Fund*: To benefit children and the arts.

Friends of School of the Arts: \$5,000

Friends of School of The Arts will expand access to professional arts programming by supporting teacher requests to participate in professional arts programs and events that support grades 7-12 academic and arts curriculums. Friends of SOTA hopes to increase the amount of master classes offered so more students can benefit from these experiences.

Gateways Music Festival: \$5,000

Gateways Music Festival's Young Musicians Institute provides 50 Rochester students with free immersive musical training alongside professional Black classical artists. This one-day program creates meaningful interactions between Gateways musicians and local students through substantive musical experiences and fellowship.

Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council: \$5,000

Explore ART! for Kids—Arts Education is a multidisciplinary PreK–12 program based in Genesee and Orleans counties, providing equitable access to inclusive, community-based arts education across a spectrum of disciplines—including fine, performing, literary, language, design, tech, media, horticultural, culinary, and folk arts—for students in rural and surrounding areas.

Mozaic: \$5,000

Mozaic is looking to bring more music-focused opportunities to individuals with disabilities and other barriers through ukulele classes as well as drum circle classes. Additionally, participants in the drum circle will showcase their skills through quarterly performances for peers and the wider community, including at Mozaic's Annual Meeting.

Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester: \$5,000

Nativity Prep staff enhance their arts program by providing essential materials and resources for students.

Pennsylvania Yankee Theatre Co.: \$2,500

PYTCo Youth Theatre Summer Program offers youth a comprehensive three-week musical theatre experience culminating in a 60-minute production. Serving 60-80 participants in grades 2-9 from Yates, Ontario, Schuyler, and Steuben counties, this initiative removes financial barriers by providing free access to performing arts education.

Prosper Rochester: \$5,000

Prosper Rochester is launching a 20-week, project-based arts initiative where experienced teaching artists and behavioral health specialists will mentor local youth in creating artistic products that raise awareness about mental health. Prosper Rochester will expand its current program, which provides six hours of free weekly arts education to 15 youth per semester.

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts: \$5,000

Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts' Community Arts Connection initiative ensures equitable access to arts education through three main components: Before-school enrichment programming, in-school learning, and out of school time community arts experiences.

Rochester Museum and Science Center: \$5,000

Now that the Hodinöšyö:nih Continuity exhibit is open, RMSC will work with Ganondagan to update related school field trips and host workshops and festivals at both sites. Project activities will increase awareness and appreciation of Hodinöšyö:nih culture and artistic traditions, while also providing opportunities for Hodinöšyö:nih people to engage with their own ancestral heritage and pass on intergenerational knowledge to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth.

ROC ROYAL INC: \$5,000

ROC Royal's Step and Dance Revolution program is offered in partnership with local schools, community centers, and youth organizations to recruit participants from under-resourced neighborhoods. They provide transportation assistance and a culturally responsive curriculum that reflects and celebrates the diverse backgrounds of participants, fostering inclusivity and representation.

The Local Sound Collaborative: \$2,500

The Local Sound Collaborative seeks to improve access to music education for school-aged children in grades 2-8 in Rochester by removing transportation and financial barriers, using mobile music educators to bring lessons directly to schools and afterschool programs, and offering scholarship opportunities.

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

The Draper Center seeks to expand access to arts education to a greater cross section of the community, providing financial aid and free dance education for those wishing to further their education, and celebrating/promoting racial and cultural diversity through dance.

Urban League of Rochester, NY, Inc.: \$1,500

The Urban League of Rochester's Summer LEAP program provides a summer opportunity where youth have access to a safe space, to food, and to enrichment that they may not otherwise have at home; the program focuses on preventing summer learning loss through academic enrichment, increasing social-emotional skills, and improving career or college readiness.

Eastman School of Music: \$10,000

As a music scholarship program created specifically for Rochester City School District students, Eastman Pathways provides participants in grades 4-12 with a wide array of world-class education and performance opportunities at the Eastman Community Music School.

Finger Lakes Cultural and Natural History Museum: \$8,000

FLCNH proposes to arrange Native American storytelling visits to 4th grade classrooms across eight schools in Yates, Ontario, and Steuben counties during 2025-2026, enhancing students' educational experiences while supporting the New York State social studies curriculum and stimulating curiosity about Indigenous history.

Flower City Arts Center: \$10,000

Studio 678 and High School Photo Club comprise Flower City Arts Center's Youth Photography and Writing program that serves middle and high school aged students as they work collaboratively to create and publicly exhibit works of photography and creative writing.

Hillside Children's Foundation: \$8,000

Crestwood School nurtures 130 children ages 5-14 facing disabilities and mental health challenges through personalized education, therapeutic support, and a blend of academic and clinical services. This project will purchase new music supplies that will offer these vulnerable students the same diverse musical enrichments available at most schools.

Garth Fagan Dance: \$10,000

Garth Fagan Dance, through the continued, steady employment of the Dance School Administrator, will serve more underrepresented students who will have opportunities to attend formal classes at low or no cost.

Grupo Cultural Latinos en Rochester: \$10,000

Grupo Cultural Latinos En Rochester's "Bilingual Creative Dance and Movement" program will provide culturally enriching dance, yoga, and baton twirling instruction to approximately 750 PreK-12 students in two Rochester City School District locations, fostering language development and social-emotional learning through arts education.

Jewish Community Center: \$10,000

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester seeks to build educational capacity in its youth theatre program, TYKEs, in an initiative that will train teachers on utilizing TYKEs' performance-related educational content; assess teachers' needs, wants, and dreams around arts education; and develop enhanced, New York state curriculum-aligned study guides to accompany TYKEs' theater productions.

Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education: \$8,800

Culture, Community, and the Classroom is a multi-phase educational series that targets teachers, artists, and K-12 learners through professional development, in-school residencies, and public presentation to engage teachers and artists in culturally responsive pedagogy to support student belonging, inquiry, and agency.

Memorial Art Gallery of University of Rochester: \$10,000

The MAG-RCSD Expanded Learning Collaboration is a multi-visit, multi-year program for students in grades 2–4 from three partner schools in RCSD that includes art viewing, art making, and development of social-emotional learning competencies. This project supports external professional development for the core team of teaching artists and teaching assistants.

Mentors Inspiring Boys & Girls: \$10,000

The Village: A Youth Arts and Academic Development After-School and Summer Program is an immersive arts and education program, founded in 2001 by Robert Ricks (actor, playwright, and community leader), that serves historically excluded children and youth experiencing limited arts and education funding in a Qualified Census Tract neighborhood of Rochester.

Phelps Community Center: \$10,000

Phelps Community Center's program encourages students to imagine, create, act, dance, sing, and discover their potential as artists. Offering more opportunities, and potentially at low or no cost, will make them accessible to more children.

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

PUSH Physical Theatre seeks operating support to provide two essential components -- outreach and follow-up with schools -- of its K-12 educational workshops and residencies as well as the administrative functions provided by outside professionals that allow PUSH artists to expend their time and expertise in providing direct services to the community.

Rochester School for the Deaf: \$7,650

In partnership with the Friends of Ganondagan, Rochester School for the Deaf will host a Deaf Indigenous artist for a residency to enrich its curriculum. The residency will give students direct access through American Sign Language to a Deaf Indigenous artist, providing hands-on learning in artistic creation to tell stories about culture and identity.

A Magical Journey Thru Stages: \$10,000

Stages Theatre proposes expanding its partnership with Renaissance Academy Charter School of the Arts (RACSA) through summer theater camps featuring Disney's "The Lion King JR," with RACSA arts teachers serving as connective bridges to create equitable access for underserved students who face barriers to theater participation.

The Center for Youth: \$10,000

The Strings for Success program, a partnership between The Center for Youth and School 19, provides violin lessons and the opportunity for performances for students in grades 3-8 with an increasing number of children graduating and attending School of the Arts and post-secondary education as well as providing secondary benefits that include increasing attendance, enhancing academic performance, and eliminating suspensions.

Williamson Central School District: \$10,311

Williamson Central School District aspires to provide engaging art experiences to their UPK-12 grade student population that explore a range of art mediums and make art more accessible. Williamson CSD is looking to develop these opportunities for students to participate in field trips to local art and theater installations that promote curiosity, creativity, and empathy.