



NEIGHBORHOOD CULTURAL VITALITY GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

City of New Haven

Justin Elicker, Mayor

Department Arts Culture & Tourism

Adriane Jefferson, Director



Created by 
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APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 16, 2024

NCV Grant Program FY 2024

What is NCV?

The Neighborhood Cultural Vitality (NCV) grant program grew out of a desire to support projects that celebrate, recognize, and bring together the city's diverse neighborhood cultures. The program was also designed to elevate and honor the extraordinary work of the creative community, opening opportunities for greater community engagement and growth through creative programming.

Projects Should

- Influence our economy
- Drive social innovation
- Serve as conduits to propel us toward diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

Priorities

More than ever, this work must be grounded with accountability and commitment to equitable systems change. NCV projects are at the core of our city's wellbeing.

To that end, a remarkable group of artists, arts activists, leaders, organizers, consultants, and community members who believe in the power of the arts and culture in New Haven came together to develop the Cultural Equity Plan. NCV projects are meant to not only reflect the values of this plan, but also to activate the possibilities and recommendations within it.



GRANT GOALS



- TO FOSTER THE CREATION OF ARTS AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT



- TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL COHESION BY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE OF ANY AGE TO CONNECT AND CELEBRATE, BOTH WITHIN AND ACROSS CULTURES



- TO PROVIDE RIGOROUS, PROFESSIONAL-CALIBER ARTS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



- TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT DATES

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16, 2024

AWARD NOTIFICATION: MARCH 15, 2024

PROJECT PERIOD: MARCH 18, 2024 - FEBRUARY 21, 2025

FINAL REPORT DEADLINE: MARCH 21, 2025

WWW.NEWHAVENCT.GOV/ARTS/GRANTS

IS THIS PROGRAM FOR ME?

WHO CAN APPLY?

DO YOU CREATE? DO YOU CONNECT? DO YOU ADVOCATE?



Every day in New Haven, culture is made by the people in our city. If you celebrate all ways of life, arts, beliefs and traditions of communities passed down from generation to generation, you are a living, breathing part of New Haven's culture and are invited to explore the grant programs within the Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Program.

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

The NCV Program Focuses on Five Categories of Applicants



ARTISTS, ARTS COLLABORATORS, CREATORS, & PRODUCERS

This includes any individual, group, or organization with the talent and skills to conceptualize and produce creative arts output. Areas served by these individuals that are seeking support from NCV may include:

DON'T SEE YOUR ART FORM?

Check out the other categories to find the best fit for your work.

- Music
- Dance
- Theatre
- Spoken Word
- Visual Arts
- Graphic Arts
- Literature
- Film
- Performance Art
- Architecture
- Digital Art
- Textiles
- Applied Art & Design
- Decorative Arts
- Public Art
- Humanities



APPLICANT CATEGORIES

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ARTISANS & CRAFTS PEOPLE

This includes any individual, group, or organization that uses traditional methods to create distinctive products by hand. Areas served by these individuals that are seeking support from NCV may include:

- Metalwork
- Pottery
- Rug & Carpet
- Stained Glass
- Tapestry
- Candle Making
- Barber
- Makeup Artist
- Quilts
- Basketry
- Enamelwork
- Jewelry
- Forged Iron
- Glass Work
- Baking
- Masonry
- Floral Decoration
- Furniture
- Lacquerwork
- Woodwork



DON'T SEE YOUR ART FORM?

Check out the other categories to find the best fit for your work.

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CULTURE BEARERS

Culture Bearers are individuals who consciously embody culture and act to share it with others. This includes individuals who carry a group's culture, and diffuse cultural values and traits between neighborhoods and disparate groups of people.

Disciplines of Culture Bearers

- Healers
- Storytellers
- Dancers (Ancestral to Hip Hop)
- Language Carriers
- Drummers
- Cooks
- Makers
 - Print
 - Textiles
 - Instruments
 - Mixed Media



WHO ARE CULTURE BEARERS?

Culture Bearers practice intergenerational lifeways and living.



WHAT DO CULTURE BEARERS DO?

They elevate, exchange, share, and preserve culture by passing it down to the next generation and sharing it across cultures and subcultures.

APPLICANT CATEGORIES

The NCV Program Focuses on Five Categories of Applicants



ARTS EDUCATORS

Arts Educators facilitate learning in and through the arts. This can be to other disciplines, or to complement existing education models, or in leading communities in the discovery and understanding of how we behave, what we think, and the possibilities that live within us.

HOW DO THEY ACHIEVE THIS?

Arts Educators achieve this by engagement with, co-creation in, and observation of works of art and arts experiences.



TYPES OF ARTS-EDUCATION PROJECTS

Projects that work with Arts Educators should maximize collaboration with academic institutions, across nonprofit sub-sectors, businesses, or even government entities. Exploration of new arts-education frameworks is also a qualifying activity.



APPLICANT CATEGORIES

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ARTS SUPPORTERS

Individuals in this group may be businesses or venues that offer space for artists, or organizations who value arts and culture as integral to their programmatic offerings and thus collaborate with artists and creators.

WHAT DOES AN ARTS SUPPORTER DO?

Arts Supporters provide guidance, promotion, and physical supports (buildings, spaces, donated resources, etc.), while also celebrating creative endeavors, their integration into - and co-creation with - the larger community



APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

*GRANT INCOME IS TAXABLE INCOME, YOU MAY HAVE TAX WITHHOLDING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS WITH RECEIPT OF THIS AWARD.



- MUST BE A RESIDENT OF NEW HAVEN OR AN ORGANIZATION BASED IN OR SERVING NEW HAVEN



- MUST NOT BE EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OR BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



- YOUTH GROUPS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY. GROUPS MUST HAVE AN ADULT ADVISOR.



- DIVERSIFIED FUNDING IS A REQUIREMENT - MEANING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN IS NOT THE ONLY FUNDER FOR THE PROJECT. ADDITIONAL FUNDING CAN INCLUDE DONATED PRODUCTS, SERVICES, OR SPACE USAGE.



- 2023 NCV AWARD RECIPIENTS IN COMPLIANCE ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY
- AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING RECIPIENTS SUPPORTING 2024 PROGRAMMING ARE INELIGIBLE TO APPLY



- 501(C)3 STATUS IS NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY TO THE NCV PROGRAM. INDIVIDUALS AND UNINCORPORATED GROUPS MAY APPLY FOR SUPPORT.*

WHAT PROJECTS ARE A FIT FOR NCV?

What makes an NCV arts or cultural project?

Arts and culture includes a vast array of activities. From performances, to productions, festivals, film, and public art projects, to creative business development, artist development, arts-based education, artist residencies, and co-creation of art with the community, grant awards honor projects that advance the goals of the NCV program, and projects that put into action the New Haven Cultural Equity Plan. NCV encourages projects that uplift community identity, engage communities in collective improvement of neighborhoods, and encourage civic engagement.



Photo Jay Miles

What kinds of awards are available?

The categories of awards have been refined to help you align your project with the NCV program. The categories of grants are: Idea Awards, Creating Space Awards, Start Up Awards, Learning & Teaching Awards, Evolution Awards, and Magnitude & Bond Awards. Only one grant per individual or organization may be submitted.



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

CULTURAL EQUITY PLAN

20
22

The Cultural Equity Plan released in 2022 is a collection of ideas, stories, questions and practices that we can all use to manifest cultural equity in our lives and weave it into our systems.

The responsibility of creating an equitable future for New Haven does not live with any single person. Instead, we each have to work to do as we move toward this vision together.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

*HARD COPIES AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST*

NCV AWARD CATEGORIES

Idea Awards

Idea Awards feature projects where organizers have a clarity of purpose around an identified community issue or need. Funds support testing a new idea, performance, initiative, or collaboration, or testing specific components of a larger idea. This may include arts-focused apprenticeships or arts-focused workshops or training, as well as creative business development. Applicants could be non-arts organizations or businesses working to integrate arts experiences and strategies into programmatic work or service offerings. Individuals, community influencers, organizers, or artists may be serving as the lead on the project.

Award amount: \$1,000 - \$2,500.

Creating Space Awards

Awards in this category are for projects that intend to secure or offset working space or performance space for creative projects, artists, artisans, and craftspeople. Funds may support exhibition or performance production costs, rental, security measures, transportation costs for participants or creators, non-traditional hour childcare support for participants or creators, translation, or food for participants or creators. Applicants are encouraged to use New Haven's public parks and spaces.

Award amount: \$1,000 - \$2,500



NCV AWARD CATEGORIES

Start Up Awards

Start Up Award programs are new or moving out of a testing phase. Program content shows a full span of subject knowledge, with opportunities to maximize specific topics for focus, amplification, and exploration through the grant award. The project will have a clear plan for risk and includes a map for making changes if needed. These awards are intended to support testing and learning to refine a project for increased sustainability, to maximize impact and engagement with the community, or activate a specific priority of New Haven's Cultural Equity Plan.

Award amount: \$2,500 - \$5,000.



Isabella Mendes. Corey Lynn Tucker Photography



Growth Awards

Awards in this category support existing programs, projects, or events that are seeking to grow their audience, boost engagement, stretch program to a new level of impact, or grow the pool of contributing creators. These could be projects that have received NCV support in the past and are working to grow or test new aspects of their work. The projects should have a clear plan for risk and a map for changes should they be required.

Award amount: \$2,500 - \$5,000

NCV AWARD CATEGORIES

Learning & Teaching Awards

Learning and Teaching Awards include projects with an arts-based education component or projects that train young and/or emerging artists. Projects may include job training for established artists, as well as projects focused on inter-generational mentoring and engagement.

Award amount: \$2,500 - \$5,000.

Evolution Awards

Awards in this category are for arts organizations, artists, artisans, culture bearers, craftspeople and creators who are seeking to change how work is created or build new results to better meet the current needs of the

community. These are projects that are intended to support an organization or individual in shifting how they work and how they present that work and engage the broader community. These changes could be necessary for survival, or these projects could reflect a new creative approach or arts-based educational concept. Changes may be for the purpose of advancing social change; economic improvements of individuals, institutions, or the community; or physical improvements to the natural and/or built environments of New Haven. Awards may be intended to give more solid footing to an artist, arts-based organization, culture bearer, or group that has been impacted by COVID-19 and the shifts the community has had to make to endure. This is an award for rebuilding, or evolving into new programs and/or services that better serve the current context of our community.

Award amount: \$2,500 - \$5,000



NCV AWARD CATEGORIES

Magnitude & Bond Awards

Magnitude & Bond Awards are intended for artists, artisans, craftspeople, culture bearers, creators, and arts-based organizations seeking to take their work in the community to the next level. These are projects that seek to make significant investment into the cultural life of their neighborhoods or the broader City of New Haven as a whole, and contribute to the ecosystem of the cultural community. These awards may support a new, big idea. The awards may amplify or significantly expand an existing program, service, or project. Or these awards may focus on building infrastructure and action for influencing change - change that improves the capacity to integrate arts, culture, and design into sustainable strategies for advancing local economic, social, and physical outcomes (e.g. deeper partnerships across sectors, replication or scaling of proven project models, a creative method of sharing information and resources that support the creative community and systems change that reflect the priorities and values of New Haven's Cultural Equity Plan).

This award is for artists, artisans and craftspeople, creative sector organizations, and culture bearers trying to grow and develop. These are projects that are not only meant to be a part of the conversation addressing the issues, needs, and celebrations of our city, but also to bring new ideas and movements to the forefront of conversations. These projects open opportunities for visibility and awareness that will impact the decisions and perspectives of community leaders, so that we as a community may address complex scenarios with solutions that reflect the lived experiences of members of our community. The project may support bolstering infrastructure, or launching innovation.

Award amount: \$5,000 - \$10,000



How Does This Work?

1. Identify the category of artist that you most readily identify with.
2. Consider the needs and opportunities in your neighborhood or across New Haven as a whole.
3. Align a project or program that you have created and/or conceived of with that need or opportunity.
4. Next, review the Award Categories and select the category that best fits with your project or program.
5. Organize your program or project materials (see the application preparation checklist [here](#)).
6. Apply for the 2024 NCV Award through the [online application portal](#).



Limitations:

- NCV Grants fund up to 70% of the total project cost.
- No part of the grant may be used for reimbursement of expenses prior to the applicant notification date.
- An organization may submit only one application.
- Exceptions to the one-application rule or budget limits apply only to parent* and related organizations.
 - *A parent organization such as an academic institution with a presenting organization or arts program with a separate budget may:
 - submit an application for each program/organization
 - submit one application on its own behalf for a project separate from one submitted by its independent program/organization.

WHAT ISN'T A FIT?

NCV Grants are not available for the following:

- Programs, projects or events not accessible to the public.
- Benefits, fundraisers, or awards programs.
- Programs that are part of a religious service
- No part of the grant may be used to directly or indirectly to participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office, or to support or promote, directly or indirectly terrorism or violent acts.
- Construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities (design fees, preparing space for an exhibit, installation or de-installation of art, and community planning are eligible)
- Cash reserves or endowments.
- Deficit or debt reduction efforts.
- Tuition assistance.



Neighborhood Music School Centennial Celebration, Woolsey Hall

PANEL REVIEW PROCESS

How grant decisions are made.

Award determinations will be based on a competitive peer review process conducted by a panel comprised of artists, arts administrators, and community leaders. The panel will review each application against the application pool and on the merits of the proposed project. Because funds are limited, project proposals must meet specific criteria as published on the following pages of this program overview.

Panelists

The NCV peer review process is conducted by a panel appointed by the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism. Panelists must be well-versed in one of the following:

- the arts,
- nonprofit management,
- program design, or
- the New Haven community

To nominate yourself or an individual to serve on the review panel, please contact the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism.

NCV Strategy Screen

The funds for the NCV Grant Program are funds allocated by the City of New Haven to invest in Connecticut's Cultural Capital. To ensure that this investment is in alignment with the Cultural Equity Plan, the City's priorities, and the objectives of the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, a strategy screen is used as part of the goal setting process and that same screen is considered during the grant review process.

We will invest in projects that:

- Advance the impact and overall strength of the cultural ecosystem of New Haven.
- Are designed and implemented in alignment with the New Haven Cultural Equity Plan.
- Show an opportunity for sustainable, long-term impact.
- Elevate historically unsupported culture holders, creatives, and artists residing in New Haven.
- Support active engagement and integration of disparate neighborhoods, communities, and sub-cultures of New Haven.
- Align with the financial and human resource capacities of the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism and the City Departments as a whole.



Neighborhood Music School Dance Department,
Photo Philip Rosenthal

Application Scoring

Panelists review applications using a scoring system that measures the aspects of the project/program design, including:

- **Inclusion** - how well the project serves historically unsupported communities of New Haven.
- **Intersections of Community** - how well the project brings together different neighborhoods and sub-cultures.
- **Learning to Advance the Cultural Ecosystem of New Haven** - how does the project/program contribute to the growth and sustainability of New Haven's cultural life.
- **Leveraging Support** - how does the project secure stable financial support.
- **Leveraging Professional Development and Expertise** - does the project support the advancement of creatives and include experts in the specified area of the project.
- **Proposal Quality** - is the proposal complete and well written.



The scoring scale is available here for your review. If you have questions or require support, reach out to the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism.

The Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism recognizes the limited pool of funding to be distributed for the NCV Grant Program. The Strategy Screen, Scoring System, and Award Categories are created to promote fairness, transparency, and objectivity in the distribution of funds. Contact the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism with any questions you may have about the process.



NCV TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT



Our Process

TRANSPARENCY, EQUITY, ADVANCEMENT

The grant review and award process is guided by a set of principles that are regularly revisited by the City. From these principles, we developed a set of grant review procedures that align with the ethics and standards of the grantmaking industry.

Our grantmaking process seeks to:

- Help applicants, reviewers, and potential grantees further their development;
- Be seen by all interested parties as objective and fair;
- Be transparent to applicants;
- Contain multiple checks and balances including perspectives from a panel of reviewers with different areas of expertise as it relates to arts-based programming;
- Balance the risks and rewards of limited grant funding (for example, by funding grants by categories and screening applications by the same strategy screen used internally to measure the impact of the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism);
- Support ongoing communication with grantees and potential grantees to achieve capacity-building goals;
- Be flexible in working with grantees to enable them to produce the best possible product.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET FUNDED?

We're here to support your work

Responsibilities of Grant Recipients

- Sign and adhere to the terms laid out in the project contract (funding agreement)
- Conduct all funded activities as described in the project narratives in the application.
- Reach out to the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism if you find unexpected outcomes of your program or if you encounter challenges - we're here to help you navigate these challenges and issues.
- Provide the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism with promotional materials so that we can complement and enhance your communication efforts.
- Invite Department of the Arts, Culture, and Tourism staff and City Officials to your event/program/project.
- Measure the progress and impact of your work and submit reports to the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism.

Administrative Appeals


Administrative appeals are intended for situations in which the applicant believes there was a serious administrative error in the review or processing of their application, denying the applicant a fair review. Applicants may appeal after discussing panel notes and have reason to believe that grounds for appeal have occurred:

Appeals Process

If a denied applicant wishes to pursue an appeal, they must contact the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism within five days of denial notification. If grounds exist, an applicant may then officially file an appeal.

Neighborhood Cultural Vitality

You make New Haven the Cultural Capital of Connecticut. You strengthen the cultural ecosystem of our City and ensure that the celebrations, the innovations, the beauty, the history, and the richness of our experiences endure from generation to generation and across all of New Haven's neighborhoods. Grow your work with the NCV Grant Program. We're eager to hear about your project.



Neighborhood Music School, Photo Stephanie Anesties

Need Help With Your Application?

The Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism is here to support your project from the first idea to implementation and evaluation for future iterations.

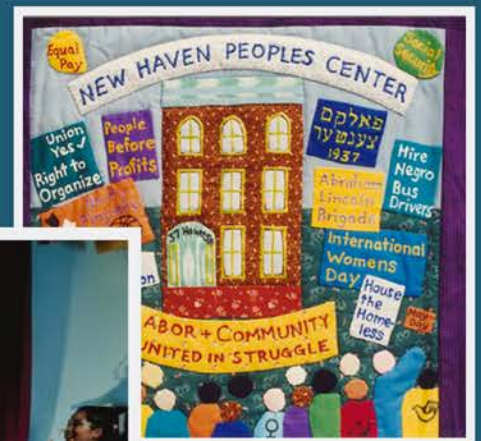
Personalized Assistance

Reach out to the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism at any point within your process to get answers to your questions, for support in completing your application, or navigating any aspect of your process.

Workshops & Training Resources

From Idea to Funded Project an online intensive course in program design and grant preparation is available to support the development of your idea and your application process. This is not a mandatory course, but is recommended for support of your work and your application.

Access the online course



Neighborhood Music School,
Photo Stephanie Anesties

A special thank you
to Michael Morand for use of images.