

CThumanities

CT CULTURAL FUND OPERATING SUPPORT

GRANTS

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GUIDELINES

CT Humanities is honored to partner with the CT Office of the Arts to administer the CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants program. These grants are administered by CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

CTH will provide up to \$16 million in general operating support grants to help the state's museums, cultural, humanities, and arts organizations maintain and grow their ability to serve their community and the public, connect K-12 teachers and students to strong humanities and arts content, and improve their information technology and digital infrastructure.

CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grants are GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT grants for museums and 501(c)(3) nonprofit, municipal, Connecticut State, or Connecticut-based tribal nation organizations that provide cultural-, humanities-, and arts-based projects and activities for the public (i.e., museums, historic houses, historical societies, arts organizations, cultural centers, and other organizations that offer activities such as exhibitions, performances, art classes, public programs, or walking tours to the public).

Eligibility applies to organizations whose core mission, vision, focus, and legal purpose, as stated in their Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, articulate a commitment to conduct museum, cultural, humanities, and/or arts activities AND at least 51 percent of their annual fiscal expenditures is allocated specifically to support cultural, humanities, and arts activities, programming, services or initiatives.

All eligible applying organizations will receive funding support.

1.1 FUNDING AVAILABLE AND MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNTS

CTH will re-grant a total of \$16,000,000 in CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grant funding to non-profit, municipal, State, and Tribal cultural, humanities, and arts organizations across Connecticut.

The minimum grant award amount will be \$5,000 and the maximum award amount will be \$500,000.

Award amounts will be determined based upon an organization's operating expenses, revenues, and deficits for the current fiscal year and the preceding three fiscal years.

Grants may be used for general operating expenses only.

Note: Organizations that received general operating support from the CT State Legislature via line-item funding in the FY22 CT State Budget may have their award amounts adjusted based upon the amount of state funding received.

Funding awarded in prior fiscal years, through other grant lines administered by CTH, the COA, or other State and Federal agencies and programs will not impact award amounts.

1.2 WHO CAN APPLY?

An applicant organization must:

- Be incorporated in the state of Connecticut for at least one year as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors that meets regularly **OR** be a Connecticut-based, municipal-run organization **OR** be a Connecticut-based federally or state recognized tribe **OR** be a CT State-operated Museum or CT State College- or University-operated museum;
- Provide cultural-, humanities-, and/or arts-based projects and activities for the general public (i.e., museums, historic houses, historical societies, arts organizations, cultural centers, and other organizations that offer activities such as exhibitions, performances, arts classes, public programs, or walking tours to the public);
- Have their core mission, vision, focus, and legal purpose, as stated in their Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, articulate a commitment to conduct museum, cultural, humanities, and/or arts activities;
- Have at least 51 percent of their annual fiscal expenditures allocated specifically to support cultural, humanities, and arts activities, programming, services or initiatives;
- Follow all terms and conditions of previous CTH grants.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- For-profit organizations
- Individuals**
- Organizations not in compliance with terms and conditions of previous CTH grants

Note: CT-based cultural-, humanities-, and arts organizations that do not meet the eligibility requirements above (e.g., have not had their 501(c)(3) status for a full year at time of application) should contact CTH staff to discuss the possibility of applying through the assistance of a fiscal agent organization.

***Note: while CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grant awards cannot be made to individuals, CTH and the COA encourage grant award recipient organizations to collaborate with and include and incorporate CT scholars, artists, knowledge keepers, and other individuals in their public exhibitions, programs, and activities.*

1.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Staff salary (full or part time)
- Temporary staff or contractor expenses
- Utility bills
- Mortgage or rent payments
- Costs related to safe re-openings for staff and the public

- Programmatic expenses
- IT and digital infrastructure expenses including software and hardware
- Marketing and advertising expenses
- Other costs related to the general operation of the organization and its core mission and purpose

Questions about eligibility of items not listed must be approved by CTH staff.

1.4 MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

No funding match is required.

1.5 GRANT DURATION

All CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grant periods are 12 (twelve) months in duration. All grant awards will be assigned a grant period from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. All grant funds must be expended in that period or retroactive to July 1, 2021.

1.6 FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

CT Cultural Fund Operating Support grant funds may not be used for the following purposes:

- Promotion of a particular political, religious, or ideological point of view
- Advocacy of a particular program of social or political action
- Support of specific public policies or legislation
- Lobbying
- Purchase of land or facilities, construction or renovation
- General operating support of a state humanities council
- Renovation, restoration, rehabilitation or construction of historic sites
- Curricula for classes not accessible to the public
- Endowments
- Individual fellowships, graduate education or university-based projects that require participants to register for academic credit
- Acquisition of artifacts, works of art or documents
- Capital improvements to applicant site and/or facilities
- Purchases of capital equipment, buildings or land
- Costs associated with social events or fundraising activities
- Purchase of food, alcohol, refreshments or catering services
- Retroactive funding for activities and expenses incurred before July 1, 2021
- Undocumented expenses

- Honoraria, stipends or professional fees for applicant organization's board members
- Honoraria, stipends or professional fees for elected officials or declared candidates seeking public office
- Honoraria, stipends or professional fees for active CTH board members and staff
- Indirect costs including, but not limited to, taxes or administrative and grant management fees. Organizations such as Designated Regional Service Organizations serving as Fiscal Sponsors for Operating Support Grants may receive no more than \$500 in fiscal sponsor fees from an organization's award.

1.7 APPLICATION DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Applications will be accepted through 11:59 pm on Monday, November 15, 2021. Award notifications will be made by the week of December 20, 2021.

1.8 HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted using [Connecticut Humanities' online grant portal](#). If you do not already have an account with our grants system, you will need to create one to be able to apply.

- [Apply here](#)

Note This process may be updated or amended to reflect changing circumstances. For the most up-to-date version, visit <https://cthumanities.org/ct-cultural-fund-operating-support-grants>.