

Department of Economic and
Community Development



CThumanities

GOOD TO GREAT 2.0 GRANTS

GUIDELINES

- 1.1 PROGRAM GOALS 2
- 1.2 WHO CAN APPLY..... 2
- 1.3 FUNDING LIMITS AND PROJECT DURATION 2
- 1.4 MATCHING REQUIREMENTS 3
- 1.5 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES 3
- 1.6 FUNDING EXCLUSIONS 3
- 1.7 GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES 3
- 1.8 APPLICATION DEADLINE SCHEDULE 4
- 1.9 HOW TO APPLY..... 4
- 1.10 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS..... 4

GUIDELINES

The Good to Great 2.0 grant program, funded through Public Act 14-98, is for nonprofit arts, cultural, and historic organizations that connect art, history, and tourism to enhance visitors' experience of an arts/cultural venue and/or historic site (i.e., museums, historic houses, historical societies, arts organizations, cultural centers, and other types of organizations that offer activities such as exhibitions, performances, arts classes, public programs, or walking tours to the general public).

Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) organizations that own or operate an arts/cultural venue or historic site in Connecticut and that promote the art, culture and/or history of the state. While organizations of all sizes are eligible, we particularly encourage small to medium-sized organizations with an operating budget of under \$500,000 to apply for these funds, as a portion of total allocated funds will be reserved for this constituency.

Competitive applications will not only look beyond basic facilities repair, rehabilitation, or expansion but also towards new means of sharing and telling the stories of our state's rich history and culture in engaging, meaningful, and relevant ways. Funding will be prioritized for projects that demonstrate a clear vision of how individual sites and organizations can effectively tie together local, regional, or statewide cultural assets in ways that demonstrate measurable movement from "good" to "great".

1.1 PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the Good to Great program are to fund capital projects that:

- Link art, culture, history and preservation in ways that will enhance and transform the visitor experiences of cultural and historical sites.
- Look beyond basic facilities repair or expansion and consider engaging, meaningful, and relevant ways to share Connecticut stories, which can include innovative means of delivery.
- Demonstrate an awareness of state tourism goals and include a clear marketing plan on how connect the two.
- Expand opportunities for small to medium-sized 501(c) 3 cultural organizations.
- Support organizations that seek to expand, and enhance the promotion arts, culture, and/or history of Connecticut.
- Increase public awareness of and/or visitation to arts, culture and history organizations in Connecticut.

1.2 WHO CAN APPLY

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization that owns or operates an arts/cultural venue or historic site in Connecticut. An historic site is defined as listed (or eligible to be listed) on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places. Organizations are required to assign one designated staff person (paid or volunteer) as the liaison/project manager. Organizations must be the owner of the associated property or must show proof of long-term lease (minimum ten years). Please note that all qualifying applications must have a capital project component.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- For-profit organizations
- Municipalities
- Organizations that currently have an open Good to Great grant

1.3 FUNDING LIMITS AND PROJECT DURATION

- Grant requests must range between \$25,000 to \$500,000.
- Good to Great 2.0 is a reimbursement program. Grantees are responsible for all upfront expenses. All expenditures will be reviewed and approved prior to reimbursement. Funded projects must be completed within two years of grant being executed. In accordance with

Section 38 of Public Act 15-1, all grant recipients will be required to have a 10-year temporary lien placed on the site by the State of Connecticut.

- Grantees have two (2) years from the contract date to complete the project.

1.4 MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Requests under \$50,000 do not require matching funds.

Requests between \$50,000 - \$500,000 require a minimum 20% **cash match**. If awarded, the cash match must be in hand within two weeks of notification of award (Additional points will be awarded to applicants who demonstrate a cash match at the time of application.) Good to Great 2.0 funding cannot be matched with other state funds. Grantees are not allowed to use in-kind goods/services as a cash match.

1.5 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Good to Great 2.0 funds may be used for costs associated with the implementation of a capital project and program development including:

- Capital projects that address the rehabilitation and/or adaptive re-use of existing facilities that will transform the visitor experience
- Site work associated with rehabilitation projects or additions
- Rehabilitation of historic landscapes
- Protection and/or interpretation of archaeological sites
- Consultant fees (e.g. engineering, architectural and historic preservation)
- Exhibit scripts, fabrication and installation
- Artist Fees
- Conservator Fees
- Site Work
- Construction costs
- ADA Accessibility
- Evaluation services and documentation (photo, video, audio, collection of statistical information, etc.)

Be creative! If something doesn't fit in the above list, contact us and ask!

1.6 FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

- Any activity that would adversely affect an historic property, including but not limited to: inappropriate construction, alteration and demolition. Note: The State Historic Preservation Office will apply the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties in assessing any such activity. Any site over 50 years will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office for historic significance. If you are unsure whether your proposed project potentially adversely affects a site, contact environmental review at SHPO.
- General operating costs, including but not limited to: salaries, employee benefits and rental/lease/occupancy costs for an existing facility.

1.7 GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The use of state funds requires an open bidding process for the procurement of professional and construction services. Grantees must understand and adhere to [DECD's Professional Services Selection Process](#) and [DECD's Bidding, Contracting and Construction Guidelines](#).

Many potential applicants have existing relationships with consultants and contractors with whom they wish to engage for paid services. Potential consultants or contractors selected through an open process consistent with DECD's procurement standards may participate in the design of the project or the development of an application. Applicants proposing the use of such consultants or contractors, or other parties who may be financially compensated through *Good to Great* grant funds or the required matching funds, must provide DECD with justification for their selection. Justification must include:

documentation of the fair and competitive process used in the proposed contractor/consultant selection; copies of Request for Proposals (RFPs), and public notices or other postings regarding the contractor/consultant service opportunity. Approval of such contractors or consultants is at the discretion of DECD's Commissioner and only when the selection is consistent with the State's best interest. This justification may be uploaded to your application in the CTH Grants Portal.

1.8 APPLICATION DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Dates are subject to change. Check the CTH website for the most updated schedule.

Letter of Interest Deadline:	February 3, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.
Full Application Deadline:	March 3, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.
Notification:	June 12, 2023

1.9 HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted using [Connecticut Humanities' online grant portal](#).

1.10 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Applicants are required to provide the following:

- Copies of your organization's current operating budget and operating budgets for the last two completed fiscal years (*Note: organizations that have previously applied for a [CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grant](#) will only be required to provide your organization's current operating budget*)
- Copy of your long term lease (if applicable)
- Photographs of any buildings that will be altered by the project (*Note: Projects that include an alteration to a historic resource are required to submit five (5) photographs of the building(s)*)
- A list of individuals who serve on your board (if applicable)