

**Evaluation Report:**  
**CT Humanities Grantmaking Evaluation Summary**  
**FY2019-23**

**Submitted to:**

CT Humanities

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**Submitted by:**

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## **Evaluation Report: CT Humanities Grantmaking Evaluation Summary FY2019-23**

Introduction	2
1. Total Amount Core Grant Funds Requested and Awarded	4
2. Distribution of Applications and Grant Awards by County	5
Distribution of all Applications (funded and not funded, including Partnership applications) by County	5
Distribution of all Grant Awards (funded only) by County	6
3. Number of Applications vs Number of Awards by Grantline	8
4. Percent of First Time Applicants by Core Grantline	9
5. All Grant Applications by Size of Organizational Budget	10
6. FY2019-23 Core Grants Compared to Past Grantmaking	11
How has the mix of applications changed over time?	11
How has the mix of grantees changed over time?	12

# Introduction

This report provides a brief look back on CT Humanities grantmaking from fiscal year 2019 through 2023. These five years were an unprecedented period as they include the Covid-19 pandemic when many humanities organizations across the state experienced operations interruptions. This report includes highlights from a quantitative review of the more than 2700 grants funded by CT Humanities. A qualitative review of the interviews conducted with a sample of core grant applicants has been published separately.

CT Humanities offers a wide variety of grants to support strong humanities projects and institutions. Core humanities grant lines are competitive grants offered multiple times each calendar year. Smaller grants like Sponsorships and Quick Grants support an extensive array of public humanities events, whereas larger core grants include Capacity-building, Implementation, and Planning grants to help Connecticut organizations strengthen their internal operations or plan and implement humanities activities.

Funded Partnerships began at CTH around FY2012, became a formalized grant line in FY2018, and are now considered to be a core grant line typically funded through the CT Humanities Fund. During FY2022-23, as a result of the heavy influx of CT Cultural Funds used to support Partnerships in this period, Partnership data did not clearly represent the impact of the CT Humanities Fund and could distort grantmaking trends over time. This report excludes Partnerships from some of the charts where they obscured findings.

When the CT Cultural Fund made funds available due to the pandemic to support humanities projects in Connecticut, we refer to these as 'extraordinary funds' and they are distinct from the core grants annually administered by CTH.<sup>1</sup>

During fiscal years 2019-2023, the following trends stand out:

- Staff from organizations across Connecticut filed 753 core grant applications with CTH requesting over \$5,750,000. CTH granted 382 core awards totaling \$2,952,193.
- In addition to core awards, CTH distributed another 1,734 grants for extraordinary funding in this period totalling \$40,537,815.

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<sup>1</sup>Extraordinary funds included CARES Act Humanities Relief Grants, CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants, CT Humanities Cultural Relief Grants (CHEFA), COVID Relief Fund for Museums, CT Summer at the Museum/CT Museums-Kids are Free Summer Grants, and SHARP Grants.

- Fairfield County grantees received 30% of the total core award value, despite having only 25% of the state's population. New London County grantees received a similar share of core awards as New Haven County, despite having a larger population.
- With six deadlines each year, Quick Grants were by far the most heavily utilized grant line and represented half of all core awards (242 of 409 awards).
- Partnership grants are few in number (27 of 409 awards) but they represent over half of the total value of all core awards during the period addressed by this report.
- Most Sponsorship applications (80%) are filed by organizations who are applying to CTH for the first time.
- In the past two fiscal years, the number and proportion of core grant *applications* from smaller organizations has increased.<sup>2</sup> There has been a similar increase in the proportion of core *grantees* with small to mid-size annual operating expenses (below \$850,000).
- There has been an increase in the number of core grant applications from arts organizations, and a relative decrease in the proportion of applications from historical museums, historical societies, and libraries. A similar trend is true of grantees: the proportion of awards to arts organizations increased, with a relative decrease in the proportion of awards to historical museums, historical societies, and libraries.

This report highlights the adaptability of CT Humanities grantmaking during a period marked by unprecedented challenges. Despite the pandemic, CT Humanities continued to support a wide range of projects and institutions, with a notable increase in funding for smaller organizations and arts groups. As CT Humanities looks to the future, these trends and insights can inform its grantmaking strategies, ensuring that the organization continues to support a diverse and vibrant humanities ecosystem in Connecticut.

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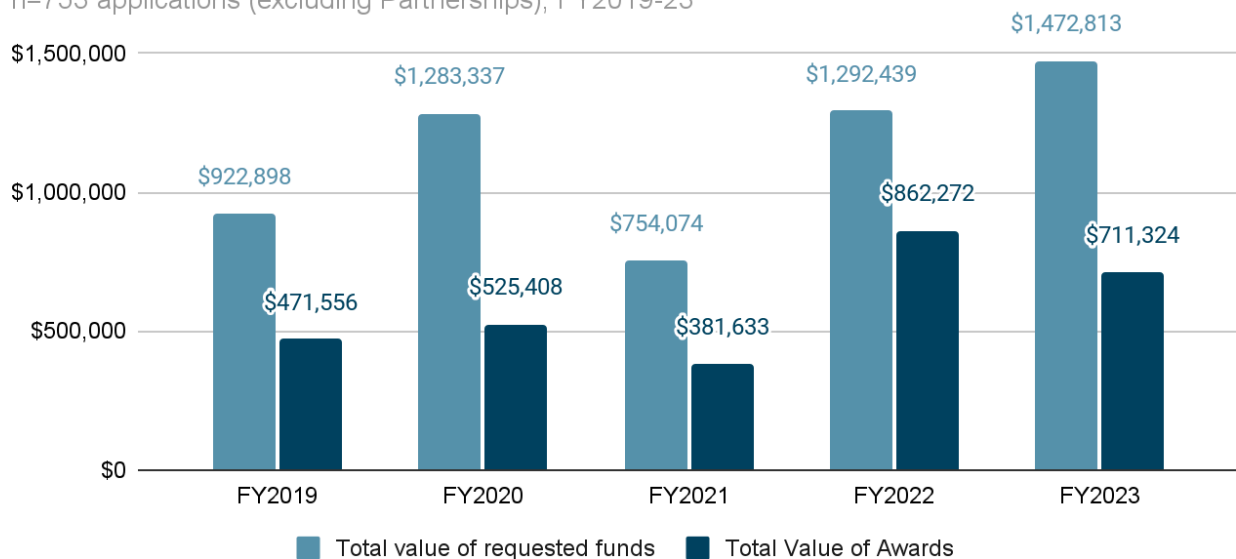
<sup>2</sup> We define small organizations as organizations with annual operating expenses less than \$250,000. Mid-sized organizations report annual operating expenses between \$250,000 and \$850,000.

# 1. Total Amount Core Grant Funds Requested and Awarded

During FY2019-23, grant applicants submitted 753 applications for core awards (excluding Partnerships) requesting \$5,755,561.<sup>3</sup> CTH made 382 awards totalling \$2,952,193 during this period. CTH is receiving more requests than ever and the amount CTH has been able to grant does not keep up with demand.

After a decline in 2021, the total amount requested for core funds in 2022 (excluding partnerships) returned to pre-pandemic levels, and continues to increase. Total amount awarded peaked in 2022 and despite increased requests, declined in 2023.

n=753 applications (excluding Partnerships), FY2019-23



**Table 1. Total core funds requested each year, excluding partnerships FY2019-23**

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	Total
Tot Value Requested	\$922,898	\$1,283,337	\$754,074	\$1,292,439	\$1,472,813	\$5,725,561
Tot Value Awarded	\$471,556	\$525,408	\$381,633	\$862,272	\$711,324	\$2,952,193

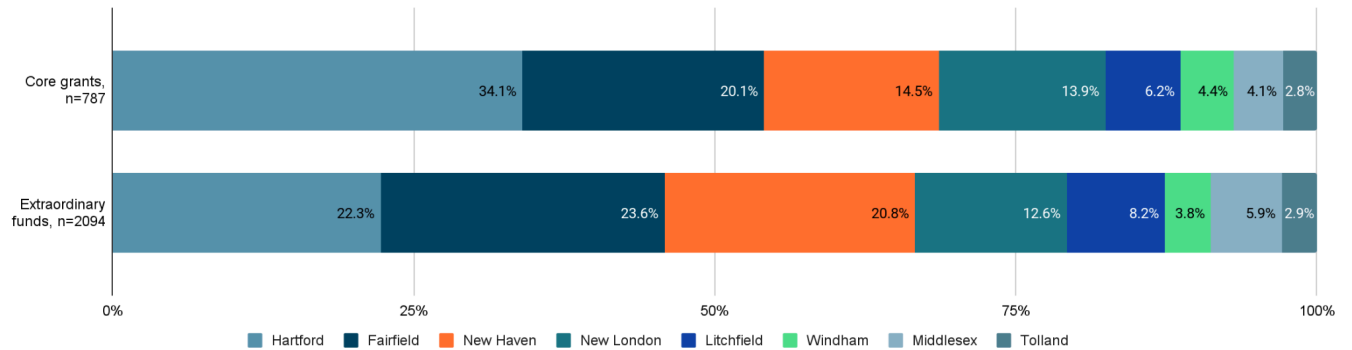
<sup>3</sup> Partnerships excluded from the above analysis. Partnerships are considered a core grant and typically funded through the CT Humanities Fund. In FY2021, in immediate response to the pandemic, there was only one deadline for Capacity, Planning, and Implementation Grants and Quick Grants were paused. In FY2022-23 Partnerships were supplemented by the CT Cultural Fund (extraordinary funds) thus CTH was able to invest more of the CT Humanities Fund in core grants that year.

## 2. Distribution of Applications and Grant Awards by County

### Distribution of all Applications (funded and not funded, including Partnership applications) by County

Distribution of applications (funded and unfunded) by county

n=787 grant applications, FY2019-23

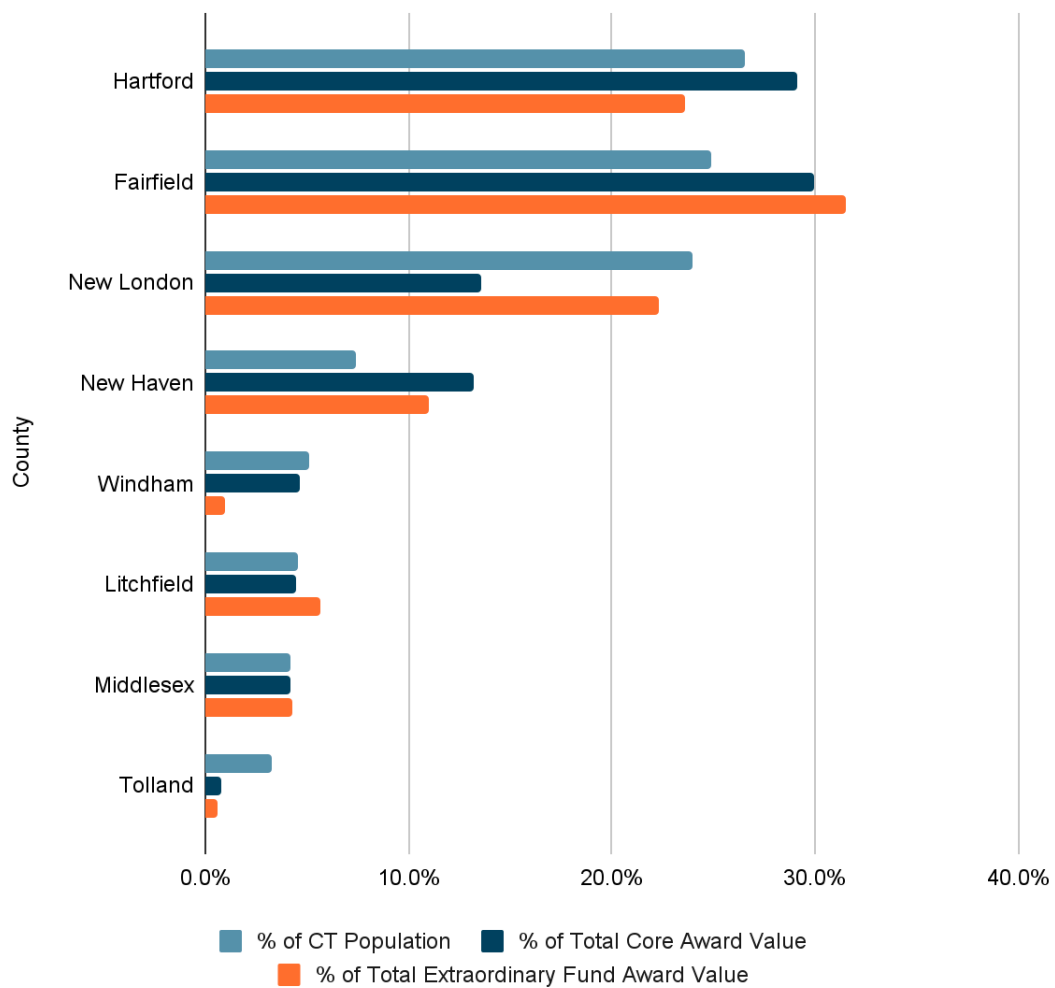


## Distribution of all Grant Awards (funded only) by County

Fairfield County received 30% of the total core award value despite having only 25% of the state's population. New London County received a similar share of core awards as New Haven County, despite having a larger population.

Share of each county's population compared with share of core grant and extraordinary fund award value

FY2019-23, excludes Partnership grants



**Table 2: CT County Population, Number of Awards, and Percent of Award Value granted per county**

County	County Population	Pct of Popn	Value of Core Awards	Pct of Total Core Award Value	% of all Ext-Funds	Value of Ext-Funds	Pct of Total Ext-Fund Award Value
Fairfield	899,498	24.9%	\$884,750	30.0%	23.6%	\$12,766,494	31.5%
Hartford	957,419	26.6%	\$860,345	29.1%	22.8%	\$9,553,786	23.6%
Litchfield	164,245	4.6%	\$132,239	4.5%	8.4%	\$2,291,861	5.7%
Middlesex	149,788	4.2%	\$123,349	4.2%	6.5%	\$1,753,905	4.3%
New Haven	268,555	7.4%	\$390,851	13.2%	19.4%	\$4,475,317	11.0%
New London	864,835	24.0%	\$399,620	13.5%	12.7%	\$9,029,411	22.3%
Tolland	116,418	3.2%	\$23,855	0.8%	2.6%	\$259,660	0.6%
Windham	185,186	5.1%	\$137,185	4.6%	4.0%	\$407,381	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,605,944</b>		<b>\$2,952,194</b>			<b>\$40,537,815</b>	

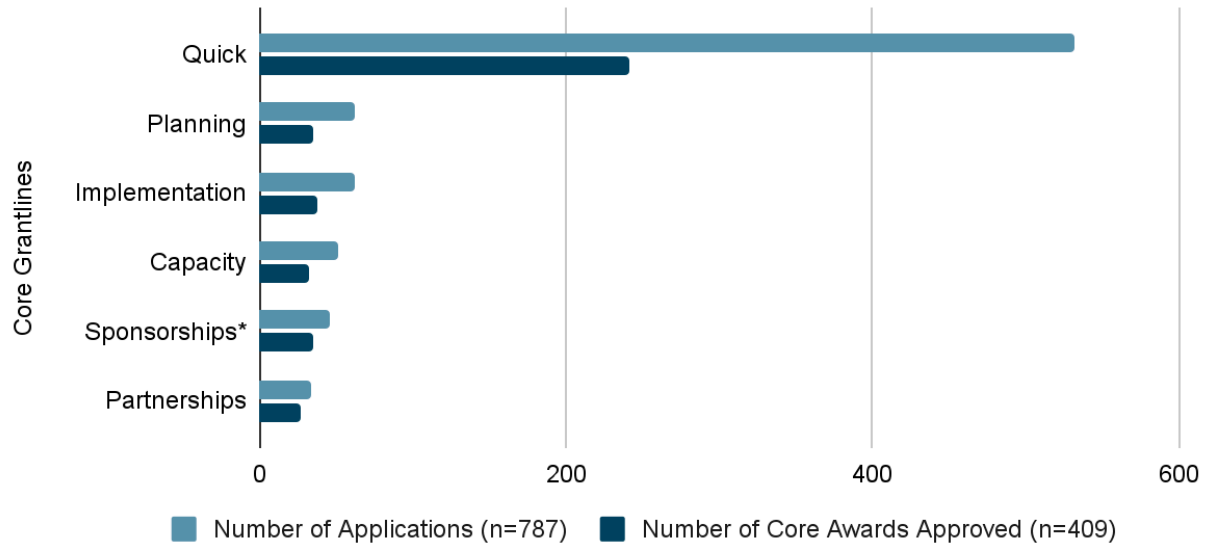
Source for 2020 population: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/connecticut-population-change-between-census-decade.html>



### 3. Number of Applications vs Number of Awards by Grantline

Quick Grants, which were open for 6 deadlines each year, were by far the most heavily utilized grant line.

FY2019-23



**Table 3. Applications and Awards by Core Grantline, FY2019-23**

Core Grantlines	Num Applications	Num Awards Approved	Success Rate	Value of Funds Awarded
Quick	532	242	45%	922,172
Planning	62	35	56%	698,330
Implementation	62	38	61%	988,778
Capacity	51	32	63%	263,411
Sponsorships*	46	35	76%	79,500
Partnerships	34	27	79%	3,325,483
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>\$6,277,676</b>

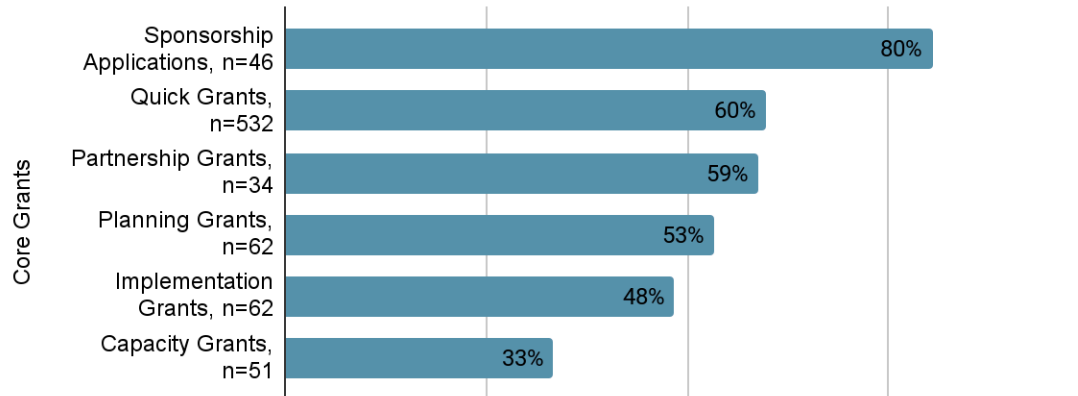
\*Note: Sponsorships started in late 2022.

Quick Grants were 59% of all core grants awarded, but Partnership grants represented more than half of the total value of all core awards granted during FY2019-23. Partnerships were supplemented with Extraordinary Funds in FY2022-23.

## 4. Percent of First Time Applicants by Core Grantline

Although Sponsorships have only been available for two years, they are already a gateway for organizations new to CTH.

n=787 applications for core grants, FY2019-23



Percent of applications from first timers

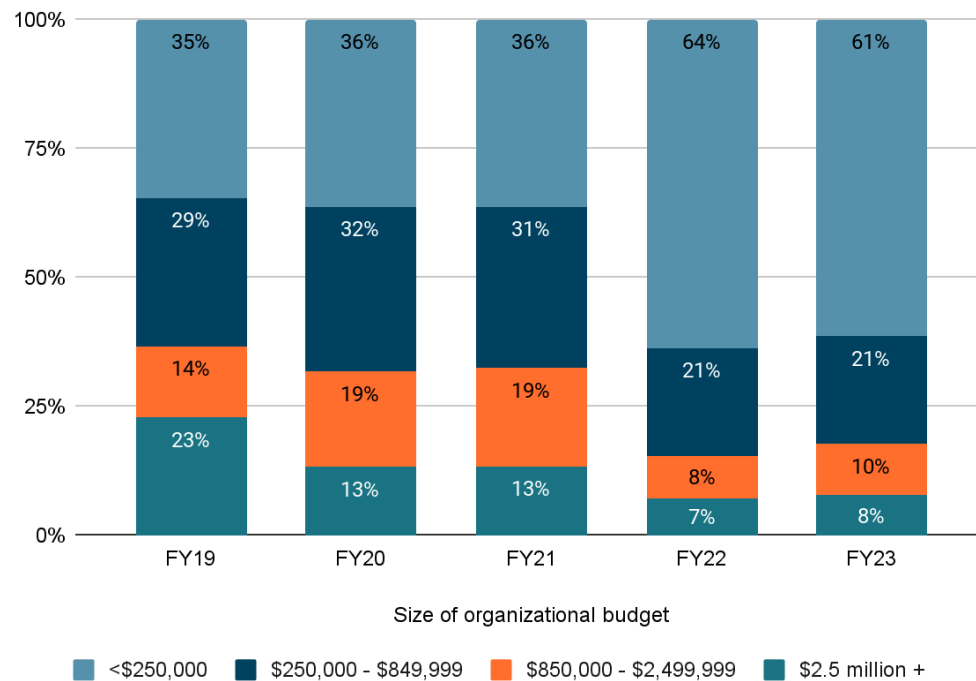
Core Grants	Total 1st time apps	Total all core apps	% 1st time apps	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Sponsorship Applications	37	46	80%				12	25
Quick Grants	318	532	60%	51	64	81	53	69
Partnership Grants	20	34	59%	3	3	6	5	3
Planning Grants	33	62	53%	2	9	2	9	11
Implementation Grants	30	62	48%	2	4	3	8	13
Capacity Grants	17	51	33%	3	2	6	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>124</b>

The majority of applicants for sponsorship grants (n=37 or 80%) had not applied for CTH funding during the FY2015-18 cycle.

## 5. All Grant Applications by Size of Organizational Budget

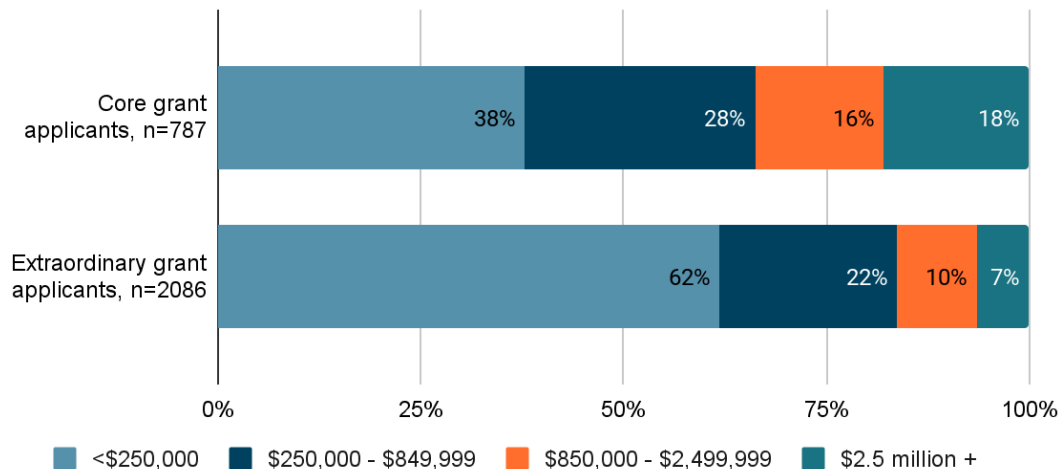
In the past two years, the number and proportion of applications from smaller organizations has increased.

n=2873 applications including Partnerships, FY2019-23



More than half of all applicants for extraordinary funds were small organizations

n=2873 applicants including Partnerships, FY2019-23

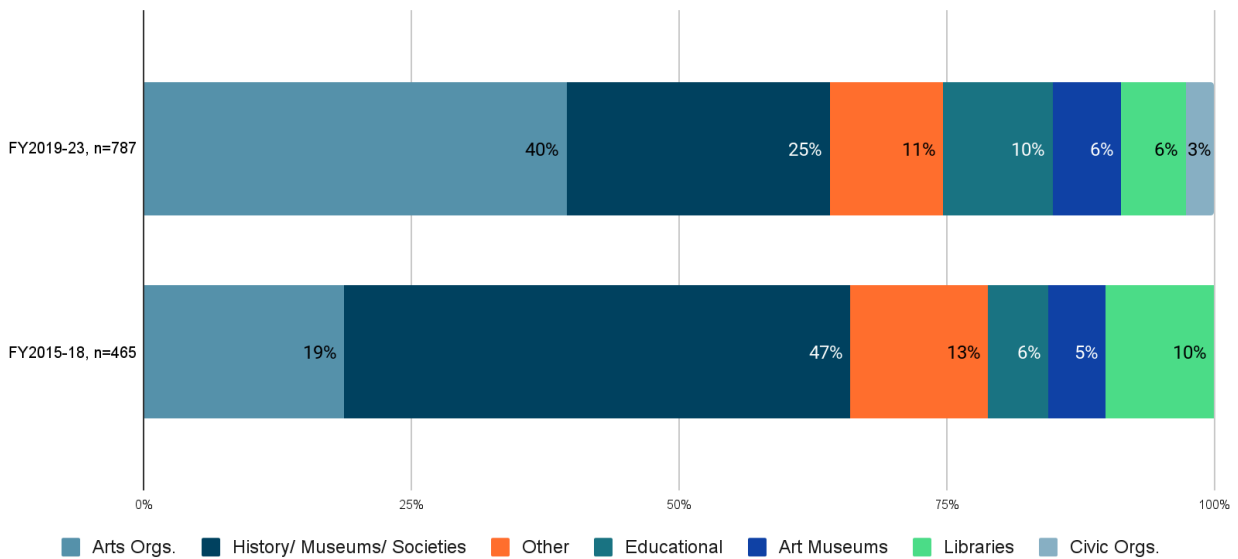


## 6. FY2019-23 Core Grants Compared to Past Grantmaking

### How has the mix of applications changed over time?

In the past five years there has been an increase in the number of applications from arts organizations, and a decrease in the proportion of applications from historical museums, historical societies, and libraries.

Includes Partnerships. Civic organizations identified starting in FY2022.



**Table 5: Change in Applications over time**

Number of Applications for Core grants by Type of Organization

	N	Arts Orgs	History/ Museums/ Societies	Other	Educational	Art Museums	Libraries	Civic Orgs
FY2019-23, n=787	787	40%	25%	11%	10%	6%	6%	3%
FY2015-18, n=465	465	19%	47%	13%	6%	5%	10%	n/a

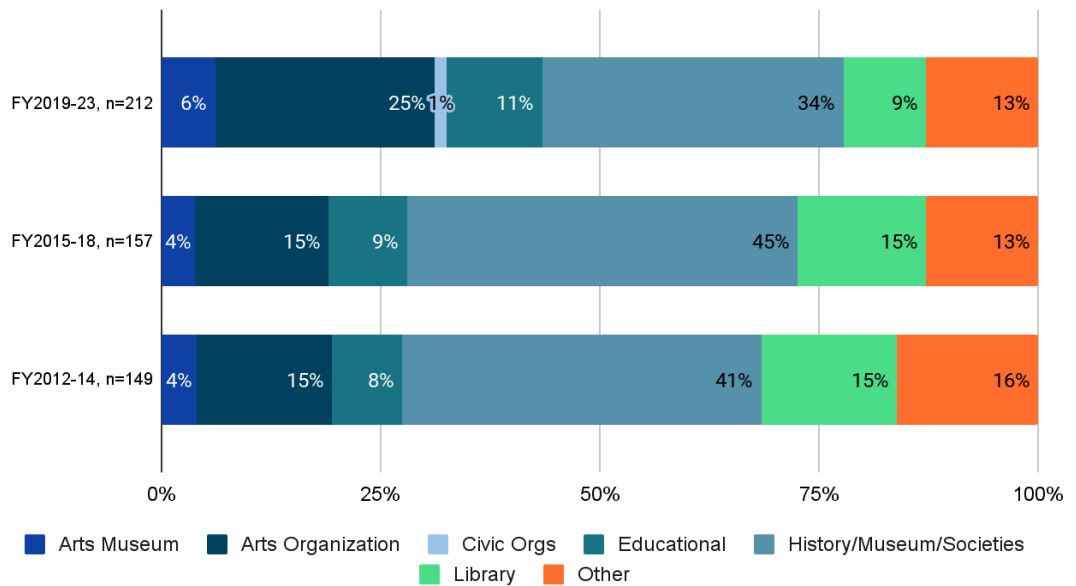
Note: Civic organizations were identified starting in FY2022.

## How has the mix of grantees changed over time?

### In terms of grantee organization type

The most recent five years has seen an increase in awards made to arts organizations and a relative decrease in the proportion of historical museums, historical societies and libraries securing core awards

Includes Partnerships. Civic organizations identified starting in FY2022.



### In terms of grantee budget size

During FY2019-23 there has been an increase in the proportion of core grantees that are small or mid-size organizations (Operating expenses up to \$850K)

Includes Partnerships.

