

CT Humanities CT Culture Lab for Capacity and Leadership Development

Connecticut Humanities

Eligibility

Stop! Before filling out the application, please be sure to review the following:

Eligibility*

The CT Culture Lab for Capacity and Leadership Development (“CT Culture Lab”) focuses on capacity building for small and mid-sized arts, culture, and humanities organizations seeking to strengthen their leadership, strategy, and operational capacity in order to sustain their work in a changing societal landscape.

This program supports leaders and teams in developing the clarity, strategy, and resilience needed to guide their organizations with confidence. Through a blend of individualized coaching, learning intensives with field professionals, and peer exchange, participants will build the internal capacity required for long-term impact and sustainability to better serve audiences and serve their communities.

Please review the CT Culture Lab Guidelines [here](#). Before applying, YOU MUST email CTH Grants Staff at grants@cthumanities.org to discuss your intention to apply. This may be attendance at one of the info sessions offered by CTH or an individual meeting with CTH grants officers.

Applications submitted without prior communication with CTH staff will not be considered.

Make sure your application meets CT Culture Lab requirements below:

Choices

Your organization delivers arts, culture, or historical programs to the general public
Your participation will lead to better understanding your audience, assets, and/or operations
Applicant has reached out to CTH Grants staff to discuss your capacity needs
Applicant is based in the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving service area

Are you collaborating with others on this application? [Click here](#) for instructions on how to use the Collaborate feature to invite others to view, edit, or submit your application. *Please note that we do not recommend having multiple users edit the same application at the same time as the system will only save the last edits made.*

Narrative

Title*

Note: This field is required in our system. We suggest using “[YOUR ORG NAME] CT Culture Lab Application.” This title will be used both internally to reference your application, but also externally on our website and in press releases if selected to participate.

Character Limit: 100

Support for the Cultural Sector*

Talk about the programs and resources your organization offers to the cultural sector:

- A) How does your organization currently bring arts, culture, or history to the public? Be sure to discuss what you offer and its value to your audience and your mission.
- B) How will participation in professional development, coaching, and networking establish, improve, or expand your ability to serve the public?

Character Limit: 5000

Organizational Capacity Challenges and Goals*

Talk about the current state of your operations, team, and reach:

- A) Describe what capacity challenges your organization is facing currently. Why is it necessary to address those challenges right now? Which pain point is your top priority?
- B) How would you like to make strategic, operational, and tangible change? What would success look like in 1-2 years? Where do you see your organization in 10 years?
- C) What have you already and/or would you be willing to try?

Character Limit: 5000

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA)*

One major goal of CT Culture Lab is to assist organizations along their IDEA journey. This can be achieved through support for leaders of color, diversifying your board, better serving your audiences, shifting your content, and more. We’d like to learn more about where you currently are on your IDEA journey and what your goals are going forward so that you’re better able to meet the needs of your team and the changing communities and cultural landscapes of CT.

- A) Please describe where you currently are on your IDEA journey. This can include strategic planning, commitments made, programming, challenges faced, etc.
- B) What skills, resources, or supports do you need to accomplish your IDEA goals?
- C) How willing and prepared is your organization to implement systems or culture change?

Character Limit: 5000

Team*

Describe how your organization functions operationally including FT/PT staff, board, volunteers, etc. Please identify the lead from your organization who will be participating in CT Culture Lab and how they can share the resources and knowledge gained with the rest of your team. Does

this mechanism for internal sharing of information already exist or will a plan/system need to be created in order to do so?

Character Limit: 3000

Cohort Commitment*

Attendance at cohort sessions is mandatory. Is your lead participant and/or organization able to commit to the following cohort schedule? All Intensives are in person.

- March 27, 2026 Kick-Off Meeting (virtual)
- April 24, 2026 Year 1, Intensive 1
- August 21, 2026 Year 1, Intensive 2
- December 18, 2026 Year 1, Intensive 3
- April 16, 2027 Year 2, Intensive 4
- August 20, 2027 Year 2, Intensive 5
- December 17, 2027 Year 2, Intensive 6

Choices

Yes

No

Cohort Priority Selection

Priority is given to organizations whose operating budgets are under \$1 million and who did not receive 2025 Arts and Culture Appreciation Grants from HFGP. If your organization has an operating budget that exceeds \$1 million or you received an HFGP Appreciation Grant, please explain why you are a good fit for this cohort.

Character Limit: 3000

Additional Information

Please share any additional information that you feel would be helpful for our Application Review Committee to know when reviewing your application. (Optional)

Character Limit: 1000

Applicant Information

Current Board List*

Please attach a list of your organization's board members for your organization's current fiscal year (i.e., names, mailing addresses, and email addresses) in PDF format. If you are using a fiscal sponsor, please upload both your own and the fiscal sponsor's board lists.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Current Year Operating Budget*

Please attach your organization's current fiscal year operating budget in PDF format. If you are using a fiscal sponsor please upload both your own and the fiscal sponsor's operating budgets.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Authorizing Signatory's First Name*

Note: If funded, the Authorizing Signatory is the person authorized to sign a program agreement for your organization.

Character Limit: 100

Authorizing Signatory's Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Authorizing Signatory's Title*

Character Limit: 100

Authorizing Signatory's Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Authorizing Signatory's Phone Number*

Please use the following format: 000-000-0000

Character Limit: 100

Authorizing Signatory's Email Address*

Character Limit: 250

Primary Cohort Participant's First Name*

Note: This is the person responsible for managing your project. This individual will become your organization's primary contact person with Connecticut Humanities should you be accepted into the program. The Project Director and the Grant Administrator CANNOT be the same person.

Character Limit: 100

Primary Cohort Participant's Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Primary Cohort Participant's Title*

Character Limit: 100

Primary Cohort Participant's Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Primary Cohort Participant's Phone Number*

Please use the following format: 000-000-0000

Character Limit: 100

Primary Cohort Participant's Email Address*

Character Limit: 250

Grant Administrator's First Name*

Note: The Grant Administrator is the person responsible for managing your project's stipend funds and expenditures. The Primary Cohort Participant and the Grant Administrator CANNOT be the same person.

Character Limit: 100

Grant Administrator's Last Name*

Character Limit: 100

Grant Administrator's Title*

Character Limit: 100

Grant Administrator's Organization*

Character Limit: 250

Grant Administrator's Phone Number

Please use the following format: 000-000-0000

Character Limit: 100

Grant Administrator's Email Address*

Character Limit: 250

Application Certification*

"I certify that the information presented in this application is true and accurate. I have read and understand the guidelines relating to this application. The applicant organization is in compliance with any grants previously awarded by Connecticut Humanities and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving."

Choices

By checking this box, I certify that I have read and understood the above statement

Certified By*

Name and Title

Character Limit: 250

Please review your application carefully before submitting! No edits to the application may be made once the application deadline has passed.

You will be notified about the results of your application in mid-March 2026 via an email to the username associated with this application.

CT Humanities Grants E-newsletter

If you would like to receive our e-newsletter with granting announcements and events, please visit <https://cthumanities.org/e-news-subscribe/> to subscribe.

Who Processed

Choices

Jeanika
Becky
Scott

Organization Eligibility*

Choices

501c3 nonprofit
Municipality
Tribe
Not eligible

If not eligible, explain:

Character Limit: 250

Is this a fiscal sponsorship?*

Choices

Yes
No

Confirm the following eligibility requirements*

Choices

Applicant communicated with CTH Grants staff about this application
Organization is eligible to apply
Application is complete
Applicant demonstrates support for the cultural sector
Applicant demonstrates capacity needs
Applicant demonstrates commitment to IDEA
Applicant can commit to the cohort schedule
Application was submitted by application deadline

Staff recommendation*

Choices

Staff recommends declining based on guidelines
Staff is unsure of this application should move forward for consideration based on the guidelines
Staff recommends moving this application forward for consideration based on the guidelines