

CT Culture Lab

A cohort program of CT Humanities for Capacity & Leadership Development

FUNDED COLLABORATIVELY BY

CThumanities
cultivating curiosity, knowledge, and understanding



About us

Founded in 1974, Connecticut Humanities (CTH) is an independent, non-profit affiliate of the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#). CTH connects people to the humanities through grants, programs, and collaboration with other organizations. CTH is supported by state and federal matching funds, community foundations, and gifts from private sources. Visit our [website](#) for more about us.

Our Mission

To cultivate, invest in, and advocate for the cultural sector in Connecticut through funding, programs, and collaboration.

Our Vision

A connected, sustainable cultural community in Connecticut that benefits and reflects all people.

CThumanities



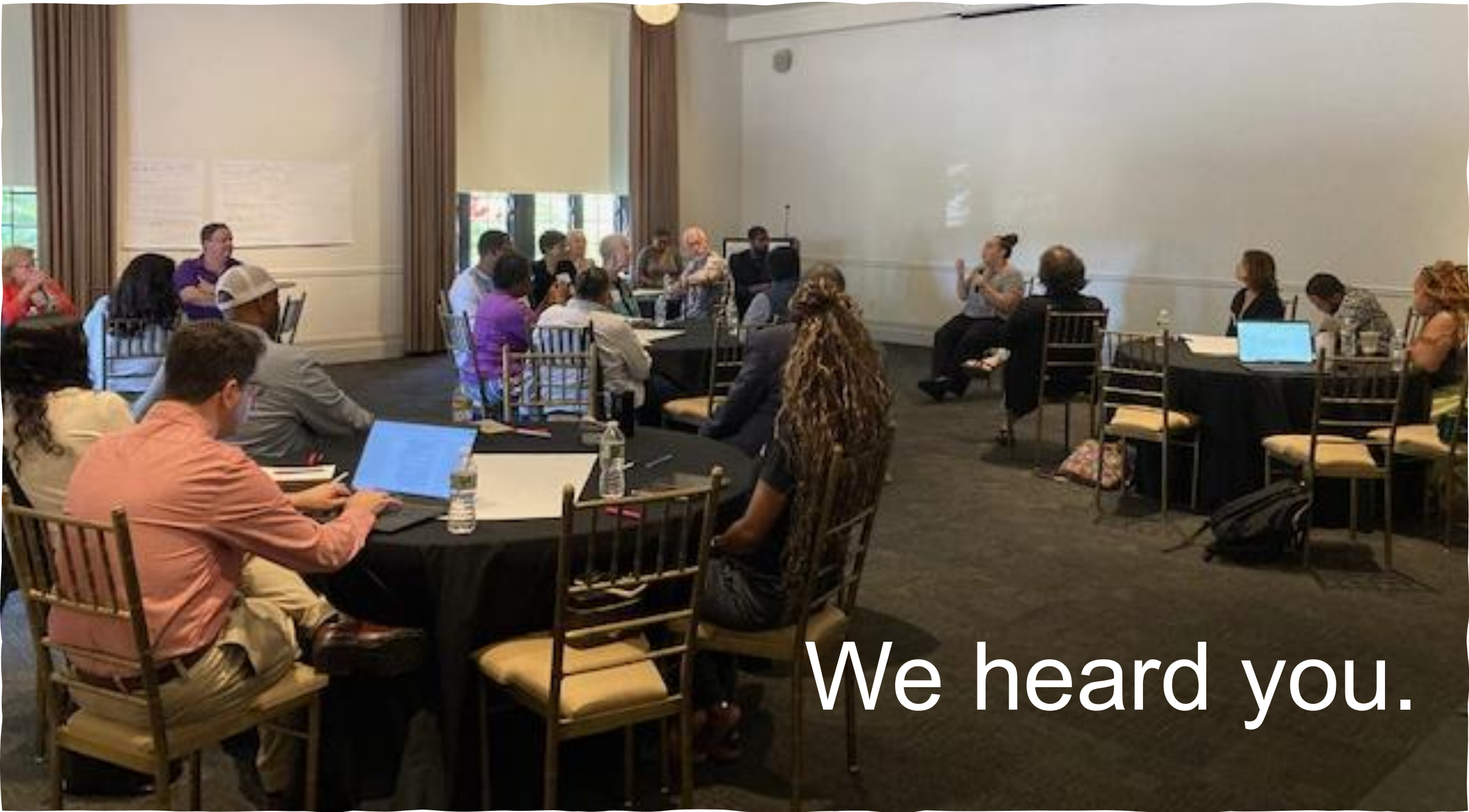
Our commitment to IDEA continues.

To build an equitable funding culture, we are committed to inclusivity, diversity, equity, and accessibility as we support partners in generating humanities content that represents the breadth of Connecticut's people and the range of their stories. Connecticut's long and complicated history still influences us today. CT Humanities is a beneficiary of that complicated history as well as a contributor. We celebrate the state's centuries of achievement, even as we acknowledge the disparate impact of that history. As a humanities funder, CT Humanities belongs to a philanthropic ecosystem built on inequity and privilege that influences decisions about staff, board, programs, and management. We are committed to confronting bias, racism, and inequality in serving this state.


The Journey

- Site visits in Greater Hartford
- Facilitated listening sessions
- Virtual meetings, focus groups, attending community events & conversations
- Joining the Greater Hartford Arts Council's listening tour for the creative sector across CT





We heard you.



Content Focus Areas

Here are some of the topics organizations mentioned as concerns:

- **Funding & Resources:** fundraising campaigns, donor cultivation, grant readiness, earned revenue
- **People & Leadership:** board development, leadership practices, staffing, community partners, and volunteer management
- **Infrastructure & Operations:** strategic communications, marketing systems, evaluation, planning, digital tools
- **Marketing & Communications:** storytelling, digital presence, audience engagement
- **Succession Strategies:** preparing for leadership transitions and building continuity plans
- **Innovation & Digital Futures:** using AI, digital tools, and creative tech to strengthen operations.

A New 2-year Cohort experience

- 3 full day in-person learning sessions annually led by the [Institute for Equity-Centered Coaching](#) and access to virtual resource libraries for independent growth
- Guest presenters with more expertise, not just for the leader of the org but for your team too
- Monthly Coaching sessions for accountability
- Opportunities for networking and collaboration





Unique Features

- Intensives & Co-working sessions held at the physical locations of the cohort participants or other regional venues
- Equity-centered methods are built into the program and into tools used for facilitated conversations
- Up to \$11K annual stipends for general operating support, with no matching requirement (Read [guidelines](#) for exclusions)
- Assessments and evaluations built into the program for simplified annual reporting process

Program Goals

- Goal setting as an organization to identify focus areas for growth and ways to better serve your staff, audience, and general community
- Creative solutions that emerge from the group discussions that address common challenges of the sector and will encourage collaboration



How to Apply



Who we are looking for

- 10-12 arts, culture, or history orgs located in the [HFPG service area](#)
- May be a 501c3 or must be hosted by a fiscal agent in the state of CT
- Small to Mid sized budget
- Readiness to make changes big & small at your org and in your community



Modified Application

- Step 1- [Review Guidelines](#) & hold important dates
- Step 2- Attend live info session or [email the grants team](#) to schedule an individual consult meeting
- Step 3- Save application in the [grants portal](#) and email the grants team by January 26 for CTH staff feedback (optional)
- Step 4- Submit completed application by Feb 1 at 11:59pm





Added intention

We want you to succeed.

Join us for in-person application assistance through mid January for general information, account setup, or other application writing support.

Upcoming Lab:

12/17 between 12-5pm Raymond Library East Hartford & more to come!



Review & Notifications

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of CTH staff, Board, and external evaluators in February. Notifications will be made in mid-March 2026.

Questions?

Contact us at

grants@cthumanities.org