



April 8, 2025

NYSCA and NYFA Announce Innovative Grant Program to Establish Reserve Funds for NYS Arts and Culture Nonprofits

First of Its Kind Initiative Addresses Critical Needs Across State Creative Sector

The New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) today announced the NYSCA Reserve Fund Grants to help New York State-based nonprofit arts organizations who have received funding from NYSCA in the last three years with operating budgets of less than \$3 million to establish a reserve fund or build on an existing reserve fund. Created to address the needs and concerns of nonprofits across New York State, NYSCA will be funding grants from \$10,000 to \$75,000 for a total of \$1,760,000 in support.

A key factor in strategic planning and capacity building, reserve funds can help an organization weather new challenges, cover unexpected expenses, and strengthen balance sheets to leverage new funders.

Applications will open on Tuesday, April 22 at 10:00 AM ET and close on Tuesday, June 17 at 5:00 PM ET and will be available at the NYFA website [here](#).

Organizations that choose to use grant funds to start a reserve fund and do not already have one at the time of applying will be prioritized. Rural, BIPOC-led, and community-based organizations are strongly encouraged to apply. Grant amounts will be determined by the organization's overall operating budget. Organizations that are fiscally sponsored by another 501(c)(3) are ineligible for this opportunity.

“Based on the current challenges facing arts and culture organizations, we developed this initiative to respond to some of the most pressing needs across our sector,” said Erika Mallin, Executive Director of NYSCA. “With this program, we hope to support organizations in their efforts to be sustainable and to explore new approaches that will be most helpful to their success in the coming years.”

“We hope that this support provides an extra layer of security to nonprofit arts organizations across New York State,” said Michael Royce, CEO of NYFA. “This program, which we are grateful to NYSCA for funding, recognizes the need for and contributions of these organizations to their local communities and the greater cultural fabric of New York.”

In addition to providing support through direct funds, the NYSCA RFG will offer one year of supplementary services focused on organizational sustainability and financial prudence. Each recipient will receive:

- One virtual workshop dedicated to organizational reserve funding and strategies to support long-term sustainability

- One hour long one-on-one consulting session
- Monthly office hours to field pressing questions in a communal setting

For those interested in applying, the NYFA Grants team will host virtual information sessions designed to help artists understand if they are eligible and how to build a strong application. The first session will take place on Wednesday, April 30 at 2:00 PM ET and will focus on a general application and guidelines overview. The second session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 at 2:00 PM ET and will dive deeper into the importance of building reserve funds. All info sessions are held virtually over Zoom, are free to attend, and are presented in English. Registration is required, available [at this link](#).

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State's arts, culture and creativity for all. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, the Council on the Arts will award \$162 million in FY2025, serving organizations and artists across all 10 of the state's regions. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources.

Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit arts.ny.gov, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, on X @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts.

About New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA):

[The New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](#) was established in 1971 to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Today, the nonprofit organization's programs and services are far-reaching and are rooted in a wealth of physical and online resources. Each year, NYFA awards more than \$4 million in cash grants to individual visual, performing, and literary artists throughout the United States. NYFA's Fiscal Sponsorship program, one of the oldest and most reputable in the country, helps national artists and arts organizations raise and manage an average of \$4 million annually. NYFA's Learning programs, including its Artist as Entrepreneur and Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program, provide thousands of artists, creatives, and arts administrators with professional development training and support. NYFA's website, [NYFA.org](https://nyfa.org), is used by more than 1 million people and features more than 20,000 opportunities and resources available to artists in all disciplines.