



The New Jersey Cultural Trust

NEWS

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New Arts, History and Humanities Stabilization Grant Program Announced

The New Jersey Cultural Trust, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission have jointly announced the availability of grants to support the institutional and financial stabilization of qualified New Jersey nonprofit arts, history and humanities groups. Guidelines and applications are now available through the websites of the three agencies: The New Jersey Cultural Trust at www.njculturaltrust.org, The Arts Council at www.njartscouncil.org and The Historical Commission at www.newjerseyhistory.org or by calling their respective offices (see below). To be eligible to apply, New Jersey nonprofit organizations must be qualified by the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the application for which can be submitted with the grant applications. The deadline for filing is January 15, 2004.

Workshops on the new grant program will be held around the state. At these workshops staff from the Cultural Trust, the Arts Council and the Historical Commission will provide guidance on the application process, and staff from the Nonprofit Finance Fund, Inc. will present an overview of organizational advancement and stabilization. The workshops will be held as follows:

- Wednesday, December 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at Wheaton Village in Millville
- Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of The New Jersey Cultural Trust in Trenton
- Friday, December 19, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Headquarters of the Washington Association of New Jersey, Morristown National Historical Park, in Morristown

The three-hour sessions are free, but advance reservations are required. Individuals may call The New Jersey Cultural Trust at 609-984-6767 to reserve space.

“We are extremely pleased to have reached this milestone in the development of New Jersey Cultural Trust,” stated Judi Dawkins, Co-Chair of the New Jersey Cultural Trust. “The Trust was created to develop a permanent source of additional funding for our cultural community in order to help organizations improve their service to the public by achieving greater financial and operational stability. With the launch of new grants programs we can begin to reach that goal through vital projects to assist groups at all stages of their development.”

In July, the Cultural Trust Fund reached the required \$20 million threshold that allows the Trust to issue grants from the interest earnings. Cultural Trust Co-Chair Josh Weston explained, “The Cultural Trust Fund is built by private donations which leverage the state’s matching dollars into the Fund. We aim to continue to encourage additional private donations. The greater the size of the Fund, the greater the interest to support more grants.”

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The Cultural Trust Act calls upon the Arts Council, the Historical Commission and the New Jersey Historic Trust to design and administer grant programs and recommend projects for funding to the Trust in the areas of endowments, capital projects and financial and institutional stabilization. In this pilot year, the Arts Council and Historical Commission in collaboration with the Cultural Trust have approved a joint program for the arts, history and humanities communities that focus on institutional and financial stabilization. The Historic Trust will issue guidelines for capital grants at a later date.

Arts Council Chair Sharon Harrington and Historical Commission Chairman Joseph Weisberg issued the following joint statement: “We are pleased to be working together on a program of such vital and equal importance to both of our constituencies. By assisting more groups address financial challenges and helping them to build greater capacity to advance their work, this program will help more New Jerseyans, both now in future generations, come to know the power of the arts and feel pride in our rich history.”

Grants will generally range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Requests above \$25,000 cannot be considered at this time. The grants are intended to make possible projects and activities that otherwise would not have been possible. They cannot replace other funds. The agencies expect to receive a range of proposals that could cover everything from addressing deficits, to capacity building, strategic planning, professional development or even establishing working capital.

An independent panel of qualified persons employing uniform evaluation criteria will evaluate applications. The Arts Council will review the arts applications; the Historical Commission will review history and humanities applications. Each will forward to the Cultural Trust Board a list of projects it recommends for funding.

The New Jersey Cultural Trust, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission are divisions of the Department of State of the State of New Jersey. For more information or application information, contact The New Jersey Cultural Trust at 609-984-6767, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts at 609-292-6130 or the Historical Commission at 609-292-6062 or consult the Web sites as listed above.

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