



## **NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FY24 PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS PLAN**

*(Based on adequate human and financial resources)*

### **FY24 OVERVIEW**

Priorities articulated in this plan are determined within the framework of the Council's new Long-Range Strategic Plan (2023-2028). FY24 is the first year of the current plan, after a year-long planning process that aligned the agency's mission, function, and strengths with the realities of the diverse and growing constituency statewide; integrated our commitment to equity, diversity, access, and inclusion; and operationalized accountability measures for ourselves and our partners.

Creating a strategy of grants and services that is responsive to the needs and opportunities in the sector today is the highest priority as we look to build on lessons learned in recent years, capitalize on the momentum of positive change, and prioritize flexibility, stability, and resiliency, both internally for the agency and in the field.

As of this writing, the Department of State (DOS) has renewed the Telework Pilot Program, allowing state workers two days of remote work in a week. As a result, the majority of Council staff works from the office in Trenton three days per week, workflow depending. The Council currently employs a staff of 15 full-time employees. Efforts are underway to continue to build the Council team, and adequately align efficiencies and capacity with the growth of programs and services. The Council board has 14 voting seats filled and three vacancies, as well as three ex-officio members including Secretary of State Tahesha Way, Senator Holly T. Schepisi, and Assemblyman James J. Kennedy.

The workforce is currently organized in four units with distinct but overlapping responsibilities: Grants & Strategies; Operations & Technical Assistance; Communications; and Community Partnerships & Artist Services. Each unit head reports to the Executive Director. The Executive Director reports to the Council Chair and, within the DOS, to the Secretary of State (or designee). The Council's purchase of goods and services, personnel matters, processing of payments, the system of accounting, and IT are all coordinated through the DOS.

In FY24 the Council will, as always, operate in three fiscal years simultaneously, carrying out the administrative processes for multiple grant programs, upholding the highest standards of accountability, operational efficiency, and broad public support. Grantees' and applicants' successful interactions with SAGE (DOS electronic grants system) continue to improve through ongoing upgrades led by Council staff. This year is also year two of a three-year State Partnership Agreement grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## FY24 BUDGET

### REVENUE SOURCES

Cultural Projects Appropriation	\$	31,900,000
National Endowment for the Arts Grant	\$	1,190,200
Administration Appropriation	\$	405,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>33,495,200</b>

### EXPENDITURES

<b>Administrative Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,366,700</b>
<b>Available for Grants</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>31,128,500</b>

The Council enters FY24 with a \$31,900,000 Cultural Projects Appropriation from the State of New Jersey, the third year of this historic investment. The Council's Administrative Appropriation remains unchanged at \$405,000. New State Budget language allows for an additional up to 5% of the Cultural Projects Appropriation to be spent on administrative costs, which enables the Council to build effective internal operations and invest in non-grants services for the field. The Administrative budget for FY24 is \$2,366,700. This budget includes the DOS's projection of salaries and benefits for Council staff, as well as non-salary operations costs, and a roster of public services. In all, the administrative budget is 7% of the Council's total projected spending from all sources for FY24.

The Council has been awarded \$1,190,200 in the second year of a three-year commitment of federal support from the National Endowment for the Arts. This increase (last year's award was \$1,052,400) includes support for Council funded programs and services statewide, with special focus on underserved communities, arts education, folk and traditional arts, and Poetry Out Loud.

The FY23 summary of revenue and expenditures as approved by the Grants Committee, together with the complete list of FY24 awards and programs, including funding principles, annual agency priorities, budget and program plan—as approved by the Council on July 25, 2023—will constitute the Council's Annual Report to the Governor, Legislature, and to the citizens of New Jersey.

### New Jersey State Council on the Arts Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP) Goals for 2023-2028

**Goal 1:** Maximize public resources through grants and services for artists and arts organizations to support statewide sector vitality.

**Goal 2:** Identify and capitalize on opportunities to engage with, connect, and support networking and partnership opportunities both within the field and across sectors.

**Goal 3:** Enhance public awareness of the value of the arts and the importance of the State Arts Council through effective communication.

**Goal 4:** Further embrace principles of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion in all aspects of our work.

## **FY24 PRIORITIES SUMMARY**

The Council is a dynamic, multifaceted agency that administers several different grant programs, provides statewide service and leadership in multiple areas, fosters ongoing communication with the public, manages a large, active, multi-agency public art program, provides extensive technical assistance, and plays a central role in promoting the value of the arts for people and communities.

Every year, the Council invests in hundreds of nonprofit arts organizations, helping to employ and strengthen the careers of thousands of artists and culture workers across the state. As the largest funder of the arts in New Jersey, the majority of Council grants provide multi-year, flexible support to help organizations pay for basic operations in service to their mission - field input tells us this is the most challenging type of support to find and the most needed. Council dollars made possible more than 900 grants last year – a combination of 369 direct grants to artists and organizations, and an additional 532 grants through our 21 County Arts Agency partners. FY24 projections are similar.

The last few years have brought great challenge and change in almost every industry, and the arts are no exception. For many funders, the Council included, building on lessons learned about need, impact, and equity means shifting strategies for grantmaking and service with compassion and clarity. The “business as usual” that funders cannot accept, is not an option for the arts businesses, artists, and arts workers either. We know that while New Jersey’s diverse and dynamic arts industry continues to deliver – offering exciting destinations, programs, events, shows, classes, and more – in many cases, audience behavior continues to change, staffing levels are down, the cost of doing business has significantly increased, and revenue is less predictable than ever.

The Council will work with local, state, and national partners in the arts and across sectors with a sustained commitment to resiliency, equity, and innovation to help ensure the success of this essential sector which contributes in irreplaceable ways to state and local economies, tourism, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life. With state and federal dollars, the Council will invest in New Jersey communities, families, and individuals through targeted grant programs and professional services that help ensure broad public access to meaningful arts experiences, in trusted and new ways.

The five FY24 priorities, listed on pages four and five, are the result of ongoing self-assessment and field communication. Measuring our progress under last year’s Program Plan, aligning with the goals articulated in the new Long Range Strategic Plan, accounting for initiatives underway, current circumstances, and agency capacity, these priorities describe the areas of work to which staff and board have committed for this year.

Detailed work plans, timelines, and goals are established within each professional unit, using these priorities as our guide. For more information about the programs and services named below, please see the FY24 Programs and Services Summaries appendix, which begins on page six.

## **FY24 PRIORITIES**

### **1. Make direct grants to organizations and artists that strengthen the arts sector and contribute to statewide vitality in equitable and accessible ways. (LRSP Goal 1, 4)**

- Administer the final year of the Council's largest, multi-year General Operating Support and General Program Support (GOS/GPS) grant program to fund basic operations for organizations in all counties and all artistic disciplines.
- Launch the new FY25 GOS/GPS "top of cycle" grant guidelines and application, and implement all associated program support ranging from outreach and assistance to application intake, processing, and peer panel application review.
- Sustain increased investment in the final year of the multi-year, Local Arts Program (LAP) to extend the reach of Council funding through the 21 County Arts Agencies and improve service for neighborhoods, communities, and populations traditionally under-resourced.
- Launch the new FY25 LAP "top of cycle" grant guidelines and application, and implement all associated program support ranging from outreach and assistance to application intake, processing, and peer panel application review.
- Continue customized project grants that support priority areas including arts education, creative aging, sector equity and diversity, arts promotion, folk and traditional arts, and access.
  - FY24 project grants include: Arts Professional Learning Institute; Artists in Education Residency Grant Program; Poetry Out Loud; Creative Aging Initiative; NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color Network; State of the Arts; NJ Folklife Centers Network; Folk & Traditional Arts Project; Art Where You Are; and Cultural Access Network
- Maintain increased financial support for individual artists through the Fellowship program and continue to foster professional development, commission, and showcase opportunities.
  - FY24 grants include: Individual Artist Fellowship; Community-Based Art Grant Program; TRANSITIONAL Art Project; Arts Annual; Senior Art Show; Heritage Fellowship Features; and Choreography Fellows Showcase

### **2. Provide professional services for the field based on current needs and opportunities.**

*(LRSP Goals 1, 2, 4)*

- Implement technical assistance programs and professional services for the field.
  - FY24 programs and services include: grant workshops and office hours for organizations and individuals; professional development for artists/teaching artists; Communities of Practice; Critical Financial Services; Making It Public; Call for Entry (CaFE); Folk Arts Roundtable; Arts Pay NJ; and Teaching Artist Speed Networking.
- Cultivate and participate in statewide and national cross-sector partnerships including those that focus on education, aging, community and economic development, disaster preparedness and recovery, health and wellness, access and equity, and civic engagement.
  - FY24 partnerships include: National Arts Education Partnership Advisory Council; Age Friendly NJ Advisory Council; Transit Village; NJ Cultural Alliance for Response; Performing Arts Readiness; Council of NJ Grantmakers Culture Funders; NJ Arts & Culture Renewal Fund; Families First Discovery Pass; and NJ Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture

- Engage in multiphase development of best practices resource for serving justice-impacted youth through the arts, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Commission and other stakeholders, as indicated in legislation.
- Manage artist selection for State-financed construction projects as indicated in the Public Buildings Arts Inclusion Act, with a focus on fair and equitable practices.
  - FY24 projects include: Ongoing public building inclusion projects; and NJ Public Art Archive

### **3. Grow the Council's multifaceted communications strategy with enhanced tools, information, and materials. (LRSP Goal 3)**

- Maintain effective promotion, education, and communications about diverse arts opportunities, events, artists, and communities statewide.
  - FY24 resources include: Opportunities for the Field; and Passing It On
- Evaluate and adapt communications assets and practices to serve changing trends and needs in the field, including web, social, and print content.
- Standardize data collection and use related to agency services, engagement, and impact, as well as national and statewide arts-impact data and information captured through various methods such as grant reports and field research.
- Provide high-quality constituent relations and assistance across all teams, and support opportunities for staff and board to publicly engage on the local, state, and national levels.

### **4. Further embrace principles of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion in grantmaking and services. (LRSP Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

- Support ongoing staff and board learning, and create opportunities to share knowledge with one another.
- Communicate publicly about agency goals in this work, and establish accountability measures and timelines for action.
- Use readily available data and information to better understand agency reach, identify gaps in engagement and service, and strategize solutions.
- Continue to assess and challenge inequities in existing grant programs, services, and processes, focusing on the details that shape systemic change.

### **5. Build internal capacity, streamline operations, and capitalize on expertise. (LRSP Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)**

- Continue to improve technical tools, including SAGE, to increase public access, simplify processes, and more effectively organize and use data.
- In concert with the DOS, successfully migrate to the new SAGE system.
- Analyze and refine internal policies, procedures, and timelines to support realistic agency change, growth, and sustainability.
- Continue to assess and align staff capacity and workflow.
- Streamline internal communications to foster a culture of creativity, clarity, and collaboration.

## APPENDIX



### **New Jersey State Council on the Arts FY24 Programs and Services Summaries**

*The information below is current as of October 2023 - updates will be made throughout the year.  
Staff contacts for each item are noted below.*

#### **Grants for Organizations**

##### **Art Where You Are** (Samantha Clarke)

This pilot project will help the State Arts Council learn and develop best practices for serving individuals who, for a variety of reasons, cannot leave their residence to participate in arts experiences. The Council will work with nonprofit, service, and artistic partners with expertise in fostering meaningful arts experiences and engagement for specialized populations to build a program over time.

##### **Creative Aging Initiative (CAI)** (Samantha Clarke)

The Creative Aging Initiative is a new grant program (launched in FY23) designed to support life-long learning initiatives for aging adults. Creative Aging Initiative grants provide \$10,000 to eligible arts organizations, libraries, veterans homes, and senior and community centers to cover costs for arts learning experiences for NJ seniors/older adults (aged 55 and over).

##### **General Operating Support (GOS)** (Tammy Herman)

GOS grants provide support for the overall operations of organizations with missions exclusively devoted to the arts, and which meet the Council's eligibility criteria. Review and consideration of GOS requests occur every three years. GOS grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment, subject to available funds and contract stipulations. The grant match has been waived for FY24.

##### **General Program Support (GPS)** (Tammy Herman)

GPS grants provide support for the operating costs of full-time ongoing public arts programs that meet the Council's eligibility criteria. Review and consideration of GPS requests occur every three years. GPS grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment, subject to available funds and contract stipulations. The grant match has been waived for FY24.

##### **Local Arts Program (LAP)** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

Since 1979 the Council has worked in collaboration with the network of 21 officially designated County Arts Agencies (CAAs) to extend the reach of State resources and increase access to the arts in communities in all corners of the state. LAP grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment to CAAs to support their local arts development programs, planning and administration; and to regrant funds to community-based arts organizations and projects, which have local Impact.

More than 500 such grants are made annually under grant programs designed and administered by the respective CAA. Any funds received by the CAA that are not regranted are matched 1:1.

## **Grants for Artists**

### **Folk & Traditional Arts Project** (Kim Nguyen)

Formerly known as the Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program, this redesigned project-focused grant program will help ensure the survival of valued traditional artforms in New Jersey communities by investing in emerging and mid-career folk and traditional artists, fostering access to support for building their knowledge, skills, and training in their culturally specific artform.

### **Heritage Fellowship** (Kim Nguyen)

FY24 is the inaugural year of the Heritage Fellowship Grant. To honor and preserve our State's highly diverse cultural heritage, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts will award Heritage Fellowships to master folk and traditional artists. These fellowships recognize artistic excellence, lifetime achievement, and contributions to our state's traditional arts heritage. Heritage Fellowship Awards are one-time, \$20,000 awards to individual practicing New Jersey folk and traditional artists to help them pursue their artistic goals.

### **Individual Artist Fellowships (IAF)** (Stephanie Nerbak)

Fellowship awards provide fiscal support to NJ artists in 12 different disciplines to help them produce new work and advance their careers. The anonymous review process is focused solely on artistic quality as determined by independent review panels. This program is carried out in partnership with Mid Atlantic Arts. The awards are made in the winter and follow a calendar year. Each year, the Council sponsors a showcase opportunity that features the work of recent Fellows in either Visual, Performing, or Literary genres.

## **Co-sponsored Projects (CSP)**

One vitally important way that the Council achieves its goals of service to the entire state is through a docket of annual and multi-year co-sponsored projects and initiatives. Co-sponsored Project Support focuses on a number of priority areas, such as arts access, arts education, artist services, and economic and community development. By partnering with organizations that share the same goals, the Council is able to widen the resources applied to the issue and build a statewide infrastructure of support. These grant funds leverage others and make for more efficient and cost effective use of public funds.

### **Artists in Education Residency Grants (AIE)** (Samantha Clarke)

AIE grants place professional teaching artists in classrooms for long-term residencies that can be offered in all arts disciplines and at all grade levels. Any NJ public, private, charter, or parochial school serving grades PreK-12 is eligible to apply. AIE grants also make it possible to offer professional development for school administration and staff, and often include the larger community in the culmination of the project. This program is carried out in partnership with Young Audiences Arts for Learning New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Arts Annual** (Danielle Bursk)

Since 1984, the Council has cosponsored this unique series of exhibitions highlighting the work of artists living or working in New Jersey. One exhibition takes place each year in either fine arts or crafts, in alternating sequence at major New Jersey museums and galleries.

**Arts Professional Learning Institute (APLI)** (Samantha Clarke)

APLI is the state's arts education professional development program for arts specialists, classroom teachers, teaching artists, and school administrators. The 2019–2020 school year was the pilot in which selected participants acted as a collaborative cohort participating in professional learning and advising the APLI team on program development. APLI is cosponsored by the Council and Young Audiences Arts for Learning New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania.

**Critical Financial Services** (Tammy Herman)

Cosponsored with the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF), this program is aimed at gaining a comprehensive understanding of the financial health and trends of the nonprofit arts industry in NJ and assisting organizations in achieving greater financial health. NFF provides Audit Review & Financial Summaries (ARFS), which highlight NFF's unique and thorough assessment of grantee financial health through historical trend analysis; introductory financial workshops, webinars, and small group financial leadership clinics for grantees to build foundational knowledge around financial management tools; as well as staff professional development related to best practices in nonprofit management.

**Cultural Access Network Project (CAN)** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

In 1992, the Council joined with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance to create what is now called the Cultural Access Network to serve organizations and individuals statewide. Since its inception, the Cultural Access Network has been a multifaceted resource for cultural organizations in making their programs, opportunities and facilities accessible to individuals with disabilities, and in being compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Making It Public (MIP)** (Danielle Bursk)

In partnership with Forecast Public Art, the Council hosts two free, five-week virtual workshops focused on public art. One track is offered to NJ artists (at all career levels) and is designed to support artists of all disciplines in exploring their art making practice and expanding into public spaces. The second track is offered to nonprofit organizations, local and regional arts councils, arts and entertainment districts, arts administrators, and units of government, and is designed to help these professionals build support for the addition of public art in their communities.

**New Jersey Arts & Culture Administrators of Color (NJACAC)** (Jessica Gaines)

Established in 2019, and led by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the New Jersey Arts & Culture Administrators of Color is a network of professional arts administrators of color created to advance efforts related to equity, diversity, and inclusion within New Jersey's arts community. The Council is a founding partner of the initiative, working with the Alliance and ArtPride New Jersey to build a community that affords members the opportunity to develop personal and professional connections, share resources, and foster emerging leaders.



### **New Jersey Folklife Centers Network** (Kim Nguyen)

Folk and traditional arts development in NJ is guided by a plan created with input from folk cultural specialists, folk and traditional artists and practitioners, and diverse communities throughout the state. Core to the work is the network of regional folklife centers that conduct regional fieldwork, and present programs to preserve and highlight the diversity of folk and traditional arts practiced statewide. The Council works closely with the State's five Folklife Centers: Folklife Center of Northern NJ (Passaic); Folklife Program for NJ (New Brunswick); Jersey Shore Folklife Center (Tuckerton); Down Jersey Folklife Center (Millville); and Perkins Folklife Center (Collingswood and Moorestown).

### **Poetry Out Loud (POL)** (Samantha Clarke)

Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, and implemented by state arts councils across the country. The Council sponsors NJ POL and works closely with a network of partners to maximize the impact of the program. POL encourages the nation's youth to learn about poetry through memorization and performance, while gaining public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and learning about their literary heritage. All NJ public, charter, private and parochial high schools, and home school associations are invited to participate. NJPOL can be facilitated in school classrooms, after-school, through community organizations, and libraries by a teacher, teaching artist, or program facilitator.

### **Senior Art Show** (Danielle Bursk)

For more than 50 years, the Council has administered the State Senior Citizen Art Show because the arts and creative expression are important throughout a lifetime. The Show includes artists from all 21 counties, made possible by a multi-agency partnership, coordinated since 2014 by the Mercer County Division of Culture & Heritage. The winners from each county show are exhibited at the Meadow Lakes Senior Living Community.

### **State of the Arts** (Michelle Baxter-Schaffer)

State of the Arts, the Emmy Award-winning weekly, half-hour television show, debuted on NJN Public Television in 1981, and aired as a co-production of NJN and the Council until 2011. Now airing as a cornerstone program of NJTV Public Media NJ, the new episodes are co-produced by the Arts Council and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, in partnership with PCK Media. State of the Arts goes on location with creative personalities and productions, and is recognized as one of the premier arts and culture programs on public television, with 32 Mid-Atlantic and New York Emmys to its credit.

### **TRANSITional Art Project (TAP)** (Danielle Bursk)

In partnership with NJ TRANSIT, the Arts Council created the TRANSITional Art Project, a temporary public art program specifically for transportation in New Jersey. The goals of TAP are to connect NJ TRANSIT customers and the surrounding community by bringing new, exciting, and inspiring experiences to the spaces customers pass through every day, as well as providing New Jersey artists both exhibition opportunities and a supportive environment in which to create public art.

## Services

### **Arts Inclusion Program** (Danielle Bursk)

Since the passage of the Public Building Arts Inclusion Act in 1978, this program has led to the commissioning and installation of hundreds of artworks in state financed construction projects of State Buildings. Up to 1.5% of the construction budget is set aside for this purpose. The Council assists State agencies and State Universities in the selection of artists for all projects including those for NJ Transit's Transit Arts Program and such major projects as the WW II Memorial. Announcements of New Jersey Arts Inclusion Projects are publicized through [CaFE](https://www.callforentry.org/) (<https://www.callforentry.org/>) and listed under the "Public Art" category when available.

### **Arts Pay NJ** (Lindsay Dandeo and Diane Felcyn)

ArtsPay NJ is a long-term project to build pay equity in the arts in New Jersey. Year one (2023) included data collection through two compensation surveys – one for nonprofit arts organizations and one for arts workers. Data collected will set a baseline of understanding about compensation levels in the arts sector, reveal areas of inequities, and provide us with the information we need to proactively address those inequities on both sides. This project is coordinated in partnership with the arts service organizations of New Jersey: ArtPride NJ, Arts Ed NJ, Dance New Jersey, New Jersey Theatre Alliance, New Jersey Association of Museums, and South Jersey Cultural Alliance.

### **Communities of Practice (COP)** (Tammy Herman)

The Council's roster includes organizations with diverse areas of focus and a wide range of organizational capacity. Recognizing this diversity, and the organic cohorts that come together, the Council created "Communities of Practice" to help organizations with similar traits or missions share best practices, concerns, and tools, in order to build opportunities and strengthen the field as a whole. To date, COPs have been developed around high-capacity organizations, arts education organizations, teaching artists, service organizations, and organizations seeking to build financial capacity. Each COP designs its meeting frequency and agenda, and is supported by Council staff.

### **Families First Discovery Pass** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

In 2018, the Council and the NJ Historical Commission partnered with the NJ Departments of Human Services (DHS) and Health (DOH) to launch NJ's first Families First Discovery Pass (FFDP) program. This program provides families and individuals enrolled in state assistance programs with free or highly discounted admission to arts and history organizations, venues, and programs. The FFDP offers broad access to cultural experiences for residents and helps cultural organizations engage new audiences with the goal of building long-lasting relationships. Residents who receive benefits through SNAP, WFNJ, Child Care Subsidy, and/or WIC are eligible for free or discounted cultural programs statewide.

### **Folk Arts Roundtable** (Kim Nguyen)

A multi-day professional development convening for individuals working in the folk and traditional arts in New York and New Jersey. Training and discussion topics include Programming Formats, Arts Education, Folk Art and Community Health, Place-based Folklife, Archiving and Fieldwork, and Access and Inclusion. The event is sponsored, in part, by the Council as well as the NYSCA, and the NEA.

**Opportunities for the Field** (Chris Benincasa)

Opportunities for the Field is a biweekly newsletter sent by the Council. It is a compilation of opportunities for artists and arts organizations that are available in New Jersey or benefit those working in the arts in New Jersey. Listings include professional development workshops, grant announcements, calls for artists, and more.

**NJ Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR)** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

NJCAR is a network of organizations, agencies, and individuals dedicated to safeguarding NJ's cultural community, its assets, and people. Through communication and training about emergency preparedness, risk assessment and disaster mitigation, NJCAR helps NJ's arts, history, and cultural sectors preserve assets and sustain operations before, during, and after disasters. The Council is a founding member of NJCAR.

**Passing It On** (Stephanie Nerbak)

Passing It On is a quarterly newsletter that highlights the work of folk and traditional artists who have been awarded project or fellowship grants from the Arts Council. Passing It On aims to help shine a light on the artists' work, reflecting the diverse communities, aesthetics, and values of the cultures their art forms represent.

**Performing Arts Readiness (PAR)** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

PAR was launched in January 2017 through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Council was one of the founding partners. The project was formed in the recognition that performing arts organizations are especially vulnerable to disasters and emergencies which can halt performances, sometimes indefinitely, and can put an organization out of business overnight. The project includes: outreach and community engagement; information resources; mentoring programs; and grants.

**Public Art Archive** (Danielle Bursk)

By undertaking this online archive of public art from across the state, the Council aims to make New Jersey's vast collection of art in public spaces easy to find, connect with, and enjoy. This online tool provides open access to public art for anyone visiting, studying, or simply passing by, and helps residents locate art in their own communities. This archive will continue to grow, as will New Jersey's collection of inspiring works of art. [www.publicartarchive.org/newjerseypublicart](http://www.publicartarchive.org/newjerseypublicart)

**Teaching Artist Speed Networking** (Samantha Clarke)

The Teaching Artist Speed Networking event was created by the Council in partnership with the members of the Arts Education Community of Practice. The free, virtual event provides an opportunity for teaching artists to meet with arts organizations looking to engage with and hire teaching artists. This event is part of a four-part professional learning and networking series for teaching artists.

**Partnerships**

**Age-Friendly NJ Advisory Council** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

Created by Executive Order 227, the Age-Friendly NJ Advisory Council works to identify opportunities for creating livable communities for people of all ages in NJ, recommend best practices for age-friendly work, and promote community inclusion across the state.

**Community-Based Art Grant Program** (Danielle Bursk)

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection was awarded funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with the Council to develop and implement the Community-Based Art Grant Program. The program addresses the need to involve and inform the public about coastal hazard impacts and risk reduction, by offering grants to community-based organizations to work with artists to create temporary public art projects that engage the community in new ways.

**Council of NJ Grantmakers Culture Funders** (Tammy Herman)

The CNJG Culture Funders Affinity Group includes private and public grantmakers working in the arts and humanities across NJ. It aims to maximize the leadership potential and grantmaking abilities of those interested in developing a strong and thriving arts community in New Jersey. As of FY24, the Council's Director of Grants & Strategies acts as the Co-Chair of the Culture Funders Affinity Group.

**National Arts Education Partnership Advisory Council** (Samantha Clarke)

The AEP was founded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Department of Education, and is hosted by the Education Commission of the States. AEP is the nation's hub for arts and education leaders, building their leadership capacity to support students, educators, and learning environments. The Advisory Council exists to help inform and guide the work and outreach of AEP.

**New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund** (Tammy Herman)

Originally named the NJ Arts and Culture Recovery Fund, NJACRF was established in 2020 to ensure the survival, strength, and sustainability of the state's arts, cultural, and historical sector during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Fund changed its name in 2022 to reflect its focus on supporting the arts, cultural, and historical sector through sustained, equitable grantmaking to nonprofit organizations most vulnerable to sector disruptions. The Council is a co-founder of NJACRF.

**New Jersey Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

The NJ Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture is a statewide initiative to increase communication and share information with municipal leaders about the many ways arts and culture improve community life. The Committee extends the collaborative relationship that ArtPride New Jersey and the Arts Council continues to foster with municipal leaders through their participation in the NJ League of Municipalities Conference.

**Transit Village** (Mary Eileen Fouratt)

The NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and NJ TRANSIT lead a multi-agency Smart Growth partnership known as the Transit Village Initiative. The Transit Village Initiative creates incentives for municipalities to redevelop or revitalize the areas around transit stations using design standards of transit-oriented development (TOD). TOD helps municipalities create attractive, vibrant, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods where people can live, shop, work and play without relying on automobiles.