



**Fiscal Year 2023  
Year in Review**



## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

P.O. Box 300  
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0300PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*LT. GOVERNOR TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Secretary of State*

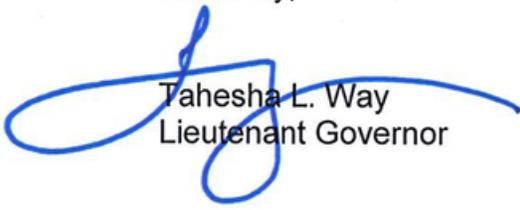
Dear Friends,

Since 2018, in my capacity as New Jersey Secretary of State, I have had the honor of working closely with the staff and board of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. With historic state funding in Fiscal Year 2023, the Council has been able to provide a record number of grants and services to support the organizations, individuals, and communities that make up New Jersey's essential arts industry.

Moreover, the Council works constantly to foster a thriving, resilient, and dynamic arts ecosystem statewide through a fair and equitable distribution of state dollars. While data can only tell part of the story of why the arts matter, this report seeks to quantify the impact of public support for New Jersey's arts organizations and artists.

To those in New Jersey's arts community and those who never stop advocating for the arts, thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let us continue to champion the arts and create a future filled with creativity, expression, and inspiration for all.

Sincerely,



Tahesha L. Way  
Lieutenant Governor



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

LT. GOVERNOR TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Secretary of State*

NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS  
P.O. BOX 306  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0306

ELIZABETH MATTSON  
*Chair*

The Council's goal in creating this report is to recap the spending and programs of Fiscal Year 2023 and to provide a snapshot of what we've done and how we, as an agency, remain accountable to the field and to the people of New Jersey.

Living through the last few years has been difficult. Living it in public service, in the arts, in New Jersey, in grantmaking, has been an exceptional learning experience. Thankfully we had and have a field receptive to our communication, our invitations to share with us their needs, challenges, and opportunities in a variety of ways, over time. And we have a staff and board willing to listen, not accept the status quo, and make change. And the more we learn, the more strategic with our support we can be.

It is such an incredible time to be doing this work. And as challenging as it is sometimes, we are grateful for the opportunity to do it – for the arts, and for the people of New Jersey.

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth Mattson in cursive.

Elizabeth Mattson, Chair

Handwritten signature of Allison Tratner in cursive.

Allison Tratner, Executive Director

# About Us

In 1966, the legislature passed and the governor signed a law creating the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and directing us to do all that is necessary and appropriate to: support, encourage, and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey.

## What We Believe

We believe the arts are central to every element we value most in a modern society including: human understanding, cultural and civic pride, strong communities, excellent schools, lifelong learning, creative expression, and economic opportunity.



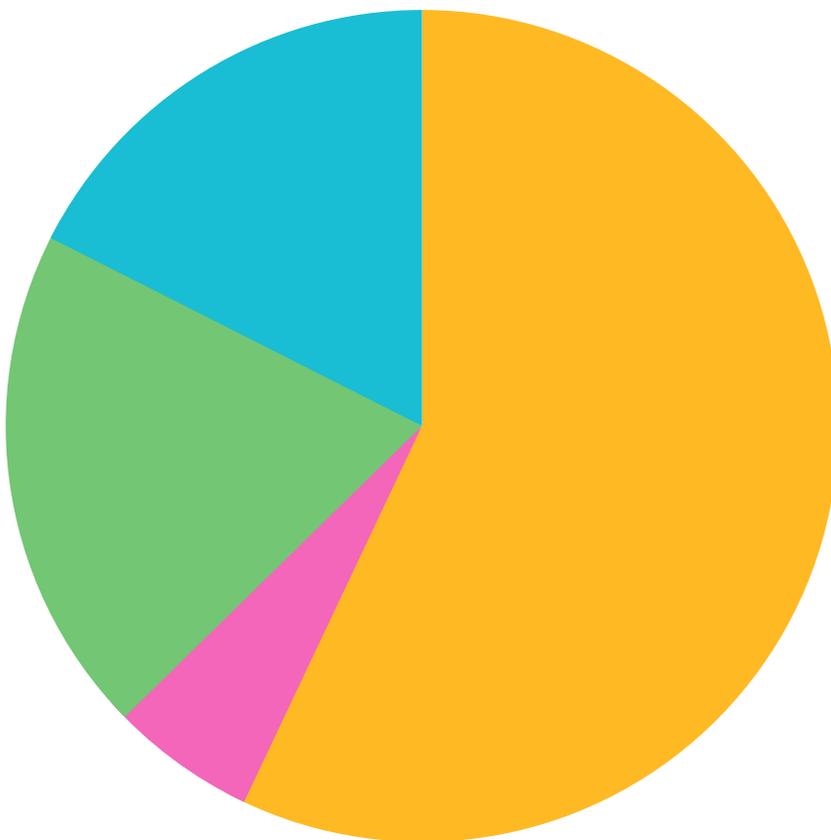
## Diversity, Equity, Access, & Inclusion

In New Jersey, we know that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts embraces the principles of diversity, equity, access, and inclusion (DEAI) in all aspects of our work. With a focus on learning, data, and accountability, we will continue to assess and challenge inequities, identify gaps in engagement and service, and focus on the details that shape systemic change.



# FY23 Grants Snapshot

With another year of historic state funding for Fiscal Year 2023, the State Arts Council focused on strategic grantmaking and customized services to support our state's essential arts industry. The Council's responsive programs are aligned with the State of New Jersey's commitment to equitable, inclusive public service, centered on increasing quality of life for people of all ages.



## Operating Grants

\$17,957,700

120 grants



## Local Arts Program

\$6,233,800

553 grants



## Arts Projects

\$5,522,356

81 grants



## Individual Artists

\$1,774,000

147 grants



As the largest funder of the arts in New Jersey, the majority of the Council's FY23 grants provided multi-year, flexible support to help organizations pay for basic operations in service to their missions.

# FY23 Grants Snapshot

## Operating

Multi-year, flexible support to help nonprofit arts organizations pay for basic operations. Unrestricted operating grants are often the most difficult to obtain by arts organizations.

## Local Arts Program

New Jersey's network of 21 County Arts Agencies (CAAs) extended the reach of and access to Council dollars. CAAs support local arts development programs and regrant funds to community-based organizations and projects.

## Arts Projects

Cultural Access Network, Arts Annuals, State of the Arts, Folklife Centers, NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color, Critical Financial Services, Artists in Education Residency Grant Program, Arts Professional Learning Institute, Capital Arts-History, Special Initiative Grants, ArtsPay NJ, Creative Aging Initiative.

## Individual Artists

Folk Arts Apprenticeships supported the preservation and celebration of valued artistic and cultural traditions. Individual Artist Fellowships strengthened the careers of a historic number of NJ artists.



95% of FY23 funds provided grants to serve communities, families, and individuals in all 21 counties.



Increased funding for individual artists by 27.4%.



\$7,989,735 investment in South Jersey counties.



The Arts Council provided 901 grants serving all 21 counties.

- Direct grants (369)
- Local Arts Program (532)

As a multi-year [Arts Council] GOS grantee we were able to pivot to virtual programming during the COVID-19 pandemic when most of our school partnerships and existing contracts were suddenly thrust into uncertainty. The lifeline that the Council GOS provided, as well as the COVID relief funding, enabled us to create new pathways for the delivery of our services, which unexpectedly increased our overall capacity and stakeholder reach post-COVID.

**Vincent Ector | Executive Director  
Arts for Kids, Inc.**

General Operating Support, as well as pandemic-relief funding, from the NJ State Council on the Arts has provided a stabilizing foundation for WheatonArts as we continue to navigate the profound impacts of the pandemic. In addition to being able to continue advancing our mission (onsite and virtually), [the Arts Council's] funding enabled WheatonArts to retain the capacity and focus needed to complete our re-accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), bringing WheatonArts the great honor of being among the 3% of museums in the nation to be accredited by the AAM.

**Susan Gogan | Executive Director/CEO  
WheatonArts**

As we strive to recover from the pandemic, this grant allows children in New Jersey to learn about music, hone their vocal and musicianship skills, find their confidence and their voice, perform in our state's respected and revered venues, gain cultural experience by travelling the world to perform with other choirs, engage in a supportive and inclusive arts community, and make lifelong friends.

**Carolyn Sienicki | Communications Director  
Westrick Music Academy**

# New this Year

In FY23, the Council supported a host of new programs and services in direct response to grantees and constituent feedback.

## **Creative Aging Initiative**

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\$220,000

A new grant program designed to support lifelong learning in the arts for older adults. Eligible organizations included arts organizations, libraries, veterans homes, and senior and community centers.



50% of CAI's 22 grantees were new to the Council's roster.

## **Capital Arts - Historic Locations**

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\$2.6 million+

A first-ever collaborative grant program between the Council and the New Jersey Historic Trust, designed to assist nonprofit arts organizations operating within historic locations.



The Capital Arts program awarded 13 grants.

## **ArtsPay NJ**

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\$10,000

ArtsPay NJ is a long-term project to build pay equity. Data captured in the first year of the project will provide a baseline of understanding about pay levels, reveal areas of inequities, and provide the information necessary to proactively address inequities.



The project is driven by: Arts Ed NJ, ArtPride New Jersey, Dance New Jersey, New Jersey Theatre Alliance, New Jersey Association of Museums, and South Jersey Cultural Alliance.

## **Teaching Artist Speed Networking**

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This event was created by the Council in partnership with the members of the Arts Education Community of Practice. Teaching artists met with arts organizations looking to engage with and hire teaching artists.



166 teaching artists and 16 arts organizations participated.

## **Making it Public**

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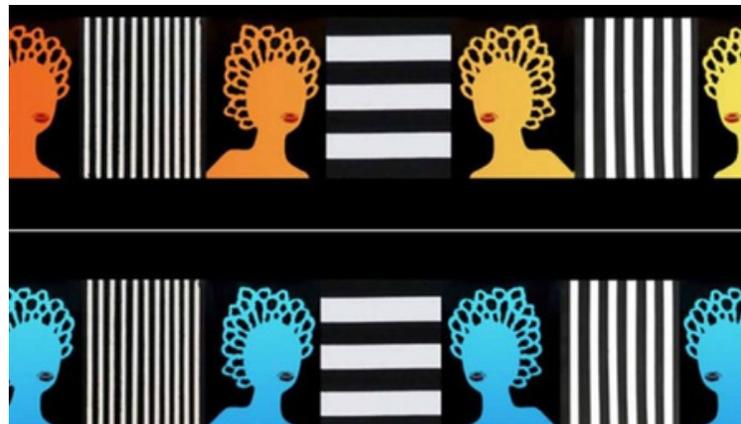
In partnership with Forecast Public Art, the Council hosted two, free, five-week virtual workshops focused on supporting public art in communities throughout New Jersey.



317 individuals were engaged - a record number of participants!

## Artist Services

Public Arts Inclusion, Public Art Partnerships: NJDEP, NJ TRANSIT, and Port Authority of NY/NJ, Making It Public, Individual Artist Fellowships, Fellowship Showcase, Arts Annual Exhibition, Senior Citizen Art Show



With my disability, working with clay allows me to express myself, lift myself out of depression, and forget my pain. The things I made brought me joy. I hung them up immediately in my apartment. I was thrilled to be able to try something new, my expression of art.

**Irene M. | Participant**

**Perkins Folk and Traditional Arts at Home**

## Folk & Traditional Arts

Regional Folk Arts Conference, NJ Folklife Network, Folk & Traditional Arts Apprenticeships, Folk & Traditional Arts at Home, Folk Arts in Education, Passing It On

## Arts Education & Lifelong Learning

Creative Aging Initiative, Poetry Out Loud, AIE Residency Program, Arts Professional Learning Institute, Teaching Artist Professional Development, Communities of Practice, National Arts Education Partnership Advisory Council, Age Friendly Advisory Council



Just one of the ways GFS addresses [equitable access for families and students] is with our participation in the Families First Discovery Pass initiative, which offers families and individuals enrolled in state assistance programs with free or highly discounted admission to arts and history organizations, venues, and programs.

**Gary Garrido Schneider | Executive Director**  
**Grounds for Sculpture**

## Creative Communities

Local Arts Program, Families First Discovery Pass, Cultural Access Network, New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund, NJ Arts & Culture Administrators of Color, State of the Arts, Council of NJ Grantmakers Culture Funders, NJ Cultural Alliance for Response, Performing Arts Readiness, ArtsPay NJ, Mayors Committee on Arts & Culture, Communities of Practice, Economic Development, Transit Village



## **FY23 Council Members**

Elizabeth A. Mattson, Chair Carol Ann Herbert, 1st Vice Chair Gina Hulings, 2nd Vice Chair

Sharon Burton Turner, Ofelia Garcia, Lana Gold Walder, Joyce C. Goore, Felicia Grant, Jeremy Grunin,  
Dolores A. Kirk, Ruth Lipper, Kevin M. O'Brien, Dr. Michael Penna, Vivian Scott Chew

Ex Officio Members: Secretary of State Tahesha Way, Senator Holly T. Schepisi, Assemblyman James J. Kennedy

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