

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION

For Immediate Release

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Cultural Coalition Announces Lord Foundation Special Fund for Arts & Culture

JULY 16, 2020 - NORWICH, CT - The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation, in collaboration with the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition, established a new *Lord Foundation Special Fund for Arts & Culture* and dedicated \$100,000 to this Special Fund that will be used specifically for making grants to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations located in New London County that have been affected by COVID-19.

Kathryn Lord, Director and Trustee of The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation said "Trustees Jeff Lord, Joel Suisman, and I understand the many challenges currently facing the arts and cultural sector in our community, and have made a commitment to create this Special Fund offering assistance during this unprecedented time." Grants awarded from the Special Fund will be in the hands of the Grantees no later than 10/31/2020.

Wendy Bury, Executive Director of the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalitions, said, "Arts and culture are part of the lifeblood of our communities and some of the hardest hit businesses by the pandemic. The Lord Foundation has been a long-time supporter of arts and culture in our region. Their generosity and commitment to the arts will have enormous impact during this time of tremendous need, and serves as an important example to our region."

The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation is the legacy of Edward and Mary Lord, lifelong Norwich, CT residents. The Foundation was created in 1997 by Edward and Mary Lord as a part of their estate plan, and was funded in 2009 upon their deaths. It is a private, family foundation that provides charitable grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Organizations interested in soliciting grants from the *Lord Foundation Special Fund*

for Arts & Culture are welcome to submit a letter of inquiry by August 15.

Grant proposals can include funding for, but not limited to:

- Small Capital Improvements- grants to make, alter, modify facilities to meet social distancing guidelines and/or permanent physical changes in light of COVID-19
- Capacity Building - grants to increase technological capacity (IT, equipment, A/V services, contractors, training) to create or expand virtual/online arts experiences, specifically those that will additionally help employ artists
- Regional Collaboration - grants to support multi-organization, authentic and innovative, collaborations that accelerate recovery, share expenses/costs and/or expand audiences
- Sustaining Support- general operating support to help sustain organizations that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and remain closed and/or cannot financially operate under reopening or capacity guidelines - largely unable to provide public programs except virtual/online
- Other needs

More information can be found on www.culturesect.org

About The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation

Edward Lord was a local businessman who owned and operated many local theaters, several manufacturing companies and a real estate development and ownership company. His wife Mary worked alongside him in all these endeavors, and together they built and sustained a successful life together. They were active philanthropists in the local community and made many contributions, both large and small, to religious, medical and educational charities.

When Edward and Mary died in 2009, both at the age of 98, and within five months of each other, the bulk of their assets were given to The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation. It was their intention that the Foundation carry on the philanthropic work that they had begun during their lifetimes.

About Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition

The Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, mission is to improve the economy, vitality and quality of life in Southeastern Connecticut by supporting the arts, cultural and creative community.

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