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CULTURAL COALITION

serving southeastern & northeastern CT

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Cultural Coalition Announces Arts and Culture Coordinator for City of Norwich

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The Cultural Coalition is pleased to announce Sarbani Hazra as the Norwich Arts and Culture Coordinator. Sarbani joins the Cultural Coalition as an arts & culture community engagement and program coordinator for the City of Norwich. Sarbani will assist with managing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the City has allocated to support local arts & culture. In this new and temporary, part-time position, the Norwich Arts and Culture Coordinator will work with the Cultural Coalition to help manage, implement and administer \$500,000 of Norwich's ARPA funding for arts and culture to support economic recovery and address the impact of the pandemic.



Sarbani will serve as the primary point of contact for arts and cultural entities seeking ARPA funding in the City of Norwich through a grant program designed to develop arts and culture based beautification projects, enhance the positive perception of Norwich, help foster tourism, and coordinate and promote arts, culture, history, and heritage events and activities. In this position, she will engage with diverse BIPOC communities in the City, including youth, students, families, and elderly as part of the Cultural Coalition's and the City of Norwich's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism.

Sarbani brings strong collaborative skills and community engagement experience to the position. She has over 15 years of experience in management and community advocacy. She graduated with Honors from Smith College with a B.A. in Psychology. She was the Assistant Director of UCLA's Center for India and South Asia and, previously

served as the Sponsored Research Officer at Barnard College. She has been a lifelong advocate for equity and inclusion and has worked with several community organizations: South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association, South Asian Mental Health Awareness in Jersey, and Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence.

Sarbani is also an actor and writer. Her acting credits include the NBC pilot One Star Wonder and the music video "Aaja" with Emmy-winner Riz Ahmed. She has also performed with Emerson Theater Collaborative and Mystic Seaport Museum's Lantern Light tours.

The next Norwich ARPA Funding for Arts & Culture roundtable meeting for the Norwich creative community, including a meet n' greet with Sarbani, will be January 19 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm via zoom. Information and registration: <http://culturesect.org/city-of-norwich-arp/>

About the Cultural Coalition:

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

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