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CULTURAL COALITION

serving southeastern & northeastern CT

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

Our mission is to improve to the economy, vitality and quality of life in Eastern Connecticut by supporting the arts, cultural and creative community.

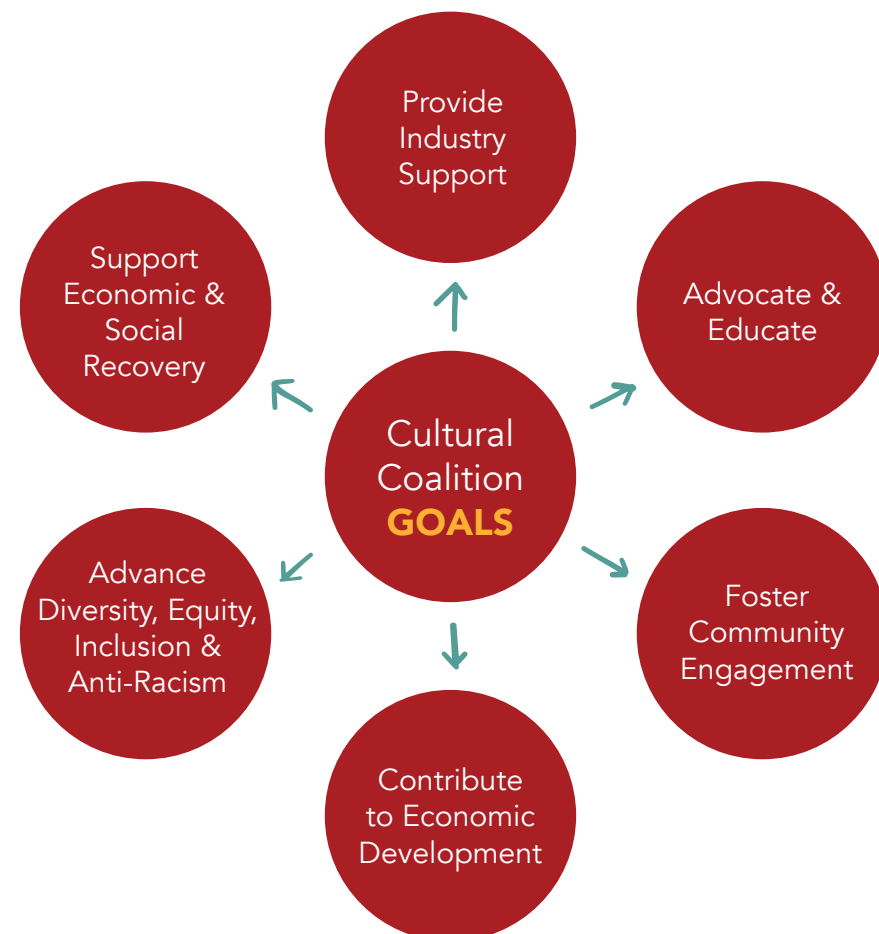
CORE VALUES

CONNECTING arts, cultural and creative individuals and entities to build on respective strengths and create successful partnerships

COLLABORATING among arts, cultural and creative individuals and entities to facilitate innovative solutions and opportunities

COMMUNICATING with patrons, organizers and beneficiaries of arts cultural and creative entities and individuals to promote opportunities and convey the sector's impact

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025



SUPPORTING ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY RECOVERY

The Cultural Coalition often works **behind-the-scenes**

serving AS THE SPOTLIGHT for the region's arts and cultural businesses – the individuals, for profit entities, and nonprofit organizations – that make-up the creative community, rather than being IN THE SPOTLIGHT ourselves.

During the past two years of the pandemic, we have raised our voice – to municipal leaders, elected officials, funders, government agencies, and more – to ensure that the individuals and entities that participate in arts, culture, history or creative pursuits in eastern Connecticut are represented in economic and community recovery strategies.

The Cultural Coalition has also responded to the changing needs of the arts and cultural sector and our communities, helping in recovery while they work towards the return to full capacity. We are grateful that the creative community continues to be a beacon of resiliency.

We look forward to the opportunities ahead as we support arts and culture recovery and work to strengthen the region's economic and community health.



HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021, the Cultural Coalition hosted 80+ events, roundtables, and forums that resulted in:

- Steering \$1.2+ million of municipal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support local recovery through a 1% for arts & culture advocacy campaign.
- Supporting the formation of a New London Cultural District, the second in Connecticut and first in eastern CT.
- Identifying and addressing vital needs of the sector due to the pandemic.
- Ensuring arts and culture are represented and included in economic and community recovery efforts and plans, local and statewide.
- Advancing diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism through our "Undoing Systemic Racism" workshop and one-on-one advising to nonprofits.
- Providing technical support with grant applications for Shuttered Venues Operating Grants, CT Humanities Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants, and hosting a federal NEA grants forum.
- Having nearly every grant that our Funding Booster Program had a hand in receive a grant award.
- Hosting Make Music Day Southeastern CT with 75 live, free music performances on June 21.
- Introducing The Resilience Room program to support the health and wellness of the creative sector's artists and employees.
- Connecting with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) creatives through the Bridge Builder and PULSE program.
- Expanding our programs and services to serve the northeast region and now serving 25% of Connecticut's municipalities.



REPRESENTING OUR REGION STATEWIDE

Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO) Services

Department of Economic and Community Development
Office Of The Arts



The Cultural Coalition is one of eight Designated Regional Service Organizations (DRSOs) for the CT Office of the Arts (COA) to support the Department of Economic and Community Development. This statewide network of service providers plays a key role that is mutually beneficial to the state's citizens and creative economy, the regional arts and cultural infrastructure, and COA's goals, programs and services.

As a COA field office, the Cultural Coalition provides leadership, programs and services within its designated region in partnership with the CT Office of the Arts.

Southeast Towns:

Bozrah	Griswold	Lisbon	Norwich	Stonington
Colchester	Groton	Lyme	Old Lyme	Voluntown
East Lyme	Lebanon	Montville	Preston	Waterford
Franklin	Ledyard	New London	Salem	
		North Stonington	Sprague	

In January 2021, the CT Office of the Arts announced the Cultural Coalition would serve as the DRSO for the following towns in Windham and Tolland counties while spearheading a regional arts and cultural assessment process.

Northeast Towns:

Ashford	Columbia	Killingly	Scotland	Willington
Brooklyn	Coventry	Mansfield	Stafford	Windham
Canterbury	Eastford	Plainfield	Sterling	Woodstock
Chaplin	Hampton	Pomfret	Thompson	
		Putnam	Union	



The Cultural Coalition represents and advocates for members of the creative community through active participation as a liaison, Board member, strategic partner, committee member, and/or reporting agency with:

- Americans for the Arts
- U.S. Congress, Connecticut delegation and Connecticut General Assembly, including eastern CT delegation
- New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)
- Connecticut Arts Alliance (CAA)
- Connecticut Humanities
- Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT
- Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 4 Recovery Steering Committee
- Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer)
- Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SECCOG)
- Other Chambers of Commerce including Greater Norwich Area & Greater Mystic

EXPANDING OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Welcoming the Northeast Region's Creative Community

In early 2021, the Cultural Coalition began outreach and registration of arts & culture contacts in northeastern Connecticut to share CT Office of the Arts, regional, and other opportunities. Registration also helped the Cultural Coalition connect with the artists, arts and cultural businesses, community organizations, municipal leaders and economic development agencies in the northeast region towns to better advocate for and represent them. By year-end, 72 individuals had registered and joined as free members of the Cultural Coalition.

Monthly online public roundtables (7) were held to meet and hear directly from

constituents, provide information, and connect them with resources. Core programs and services were extended to the northeast.

In October, Charlene Haukom joined the Cultural Coalition as the Northeast Region (NER) Coordinator to serve as liaison, assess the arts & cultural landscape, support Coalition programs and services, and to respond to the region's unique needs.



Funding Booster Program

To improve the arts and cultural sector's ability to capitalize on funding opportunities, our Funding Booster Program offered a variety of professional development activities and access to free resources.

Program manager and professional grant writer, Jessica Morozowich, conducted a getting started with grant writing training, and provided one-on-one review and feedback on numerous grant drafts. The team held 10 online monthly grant clinics, including information about upcoming local, regional, state and federal grant opportunities.

The Cultural Coalition hosted a NEA Grants information session in partnership with the Office of Congressman Joe Courtney. The annual grantmakers forum in October offered insights into the current funding environment, priorities for funders, and best practices for successful applications.

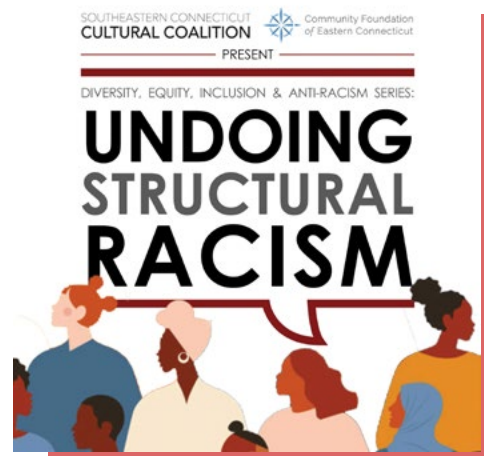
Those new to grants have applied and received first-time awards. Seasoned and experienced grant writers have progressed to the next level of project support. For example, a small arts organization supporting mental health and

Three years into this program, the outcomes are evident. For nearly every grant that the Funding Booster manager provided technical assistance, an award was received.

wellness received their first federal NEA grant, Challenge America, putting the organization on the map and underscoring the important work that they do!

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Series

The Cultural Coalition continued a series of trainings to assist the region in redesigning policies and operations from a diverse, equitable, inclusive and anti-racist lens, with a sold-out (100 attendee), 3 hour online workshop on "Undoing Structural Racism." The sessions were designed and facilitated by Thought Partner Solutions' Founder and CEO, Jamal Jimerson. Customized for nonprofit organizations with an existing commitment and governance structure to support this work, the workshop included board members, staff, and DEI committee members from 42 organizations who received practical tips, tools and advice for implementing measurable and sustainable strategies for guiding their organizations.



Municipal Services

The Cultural Coalition's expanded Municipal Services Program focused on helping municipalities begin to recover from the pandemic by integrating the creative community in economic and community development plans and actions.

In addition to the work on Cultural Districts and municipal ARPA funds

for arts & culture, the Cultural Coalition advised Mayors and First Selectmen, economic development departments & commissions, planners and project committees regarding updates to Plans of Conservation & Development, obtaining Sustainable CT certification, and other municipal projects.

The Cultural Coalition believes that arts & culture are vital to economic and community health, and regional success begins at the local level.

- Cultural Coalition's ARPA actions:**
- advocated for 1% municipal funds dedicated to arts & culture
 - offered to administer arts & culture funds within each municipality
 - provided support & recommendations to address priority needs
 - contracted with 5 municipalities to administer arts & culture funding

ARPA Municipal Funds for Arts & Culture

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) delivered \$350 billion to state, local, and tribal governments to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Connecticut's lack of county government meant that this funding went to 169 individual cities and towns. The Cultural Coalition took action to support our region's municipalities and steer \$1.2+ million of municipal ARPA funds to local arts & culture recovery.

Cultural Districts

A Cultural District is a specific area of a city or town identified by the municipality that has a number of cultural facilities, activities and/or assets – both for profit and nonprofit. The Cultural Coalition conducted a Cultural District overview presentation for municipalities to outline the process and goals for forming a Cultural District. The Cultural Coalition also assisted with community input sessions in New London and Stonington.

In 2021, New London established the first Cultural District in eastern CT, the second in Connecticut.

Art At The Airport

The Cultural Coalition and Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) featured local artists in quarterly public art exhibits at the Groton-New London Airport's main terminal. Groton Public Library offered exhibit-related public programs and online activities.

In 2021, the winter exhibit showcased reproductions of oil paintings and graphic illustrations depicting the mission of the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol, which has its Operations Center in New London. In a virtual live event, staff from OPCEN described their work in receiving, processing and distributing iceberg warning reports. Attendees learned that the Coast Guard aircraft that conduct the iceberg reconnaissance work, depart from the Groton-New London Airport.



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EXPANDING OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Art At The Airport *(continued)*

The spring and summer exhibit, *Take Flight*, featured colorful mosaic tiles hand-crafted in clay by Paul and Esther Halferty of Lilywork Artisan Tile in Stonington. Each mosaic depicted a specific moment in aviation history. Next was *Peace in Nature*, a mixed media gallery exhibit of artwork created by Artreach, Inc.'s program members with master teaching artist Faith Satterfield, who guided the artists in exploring the natural elements, focusing on earth, sky, and water.



Rising Tide Series

The Cultural Coalition's signature Rising Tide program, roundtable conversations with our partners, continued to be essential for gathering "boots on the ground" information from the arts & culture community about the impact of the pandemic. With the vital issues identified, the Cultural Coalition advocated for and represented the sector in planning the path to recovery. Regular and ad hoc online meetings also assisted the Cultural Coalition in sharing information, fostering collaboration, and providing a space for peer to peer support.

Roundtables and topics included:

- (6) **Pop-up Partner Check-ins** – plans for reopening, audience protocols, summer events.
- (11) **Exec.Dir./CEO SECT Large Orgs Roundtables** – advocacy, legislative issues, relief programs, plans for reopening, major events & galas, runway for recovery.
- (11) **Arts in Health Collaborative Meetings** – providing arts programs during the pandemic, input on new Resilience Room program, arts approach to health and wellness, including serving the military community.

The Resilience Room

The Cultural Coalition launched The Resilience Room program to provide a community of support for the arts and cultural industry in eastern CT, including employers and employees, individual artists, and volunteers. Beginning in March, emotional wellness facilitators hosted 10 guided discussions and provided resources for participants to build their personal emotional resiliency to help deal with current struggles and better handle the stresses of the future.

Bridge Builder Program

From January to June, the CT Office of the Arts' Bridge Builders Program placed an Arts Community Impact Coordinator with the Cultural Coalition to serve as an engagement lead with a focus on cultural vibrancy and social/artistic justice.

The Arts Community Impact Coordinator worked to identify various affiliation circles and creative networks in the region that were not being served. Three "PULSE" Zoom meetings were held to provide space for innovative thinking creatives in the region to discuss the industry, culture and provide opportunities for community building.



Artist Professional Development

Presented by Mass MoCA and brought to eastern Connecticut in partnership with the CT Office of the Arts, the Assets for Artists program offered 12 free online professional development workshops for artists-entrepreneurs in the state's rural areas during 2021. Additionally, program participants were offered one-on-one

technical assistance and the opportunity to attend additional workshops held for other audiences. Eastern Connecticut creative microenterprises accounted for 30% of the total rural artists served in the state, with many clients participating in multiple offerings.



Make Music Day 2021 in southeastern CT



The Cultural Coalition was pleased to showcase fifty-five different musicians (individuals, duos or groups) on June 21st for our fourth annual event coordinated in the southeast region. With most performances outdoors, live and in-person, following the all-virtual celebration in 2020, thirty locations were able to host free music-making events. Nearly half of the day's seventy-five performances happened in New London at multiple venues. Old Lyme coordinated a dozen performers along

a one-mile route. Events were also held at Norwich Arts Center, East Lyme Community Center, and libraries in Groton and Waterford.

Make Music Southeastern CT is part of Make Music Day, a global music celebration held on the summer solstice each year in more than 1,000 cities in 120 countries, that brings people of all ages and skill levels together to share music in free public performances.



Arts and Culture Awards

The Cultural Coalition honored Chelsea Groton Bank as the 2021 "Outstanding Business Supporter of Arts and Culture" and Florence Griswold Museum as the "Outstanding Arts and Cultural Organization." The Cultural Coalition presented the annual awards in special collaboration at the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's Regional Awards Celebration on July 22. The Cultural Coalition award recipients received engraved original works of art by local artist Jeffry P'an.



President/CEO, Michael Rauh and Chelsea Groton Bank attendees with Cultural Coalition staff

Becky Beaulieu, Director, Florence Griswold Museum and Wendy Bury, Executive Director, Cultural Coalition

CULTURAL COALITION

Our Members

500+ businesses, organizations and individuals who live, work and support the arts, heritage, cultural and creative sector.

The Cultural Coalition is a free membership organization (registered partners/contacts) serving in 42 municipalities in eastern Connecticut.

Members by Municipality

Southeast Region *(since 2014)*

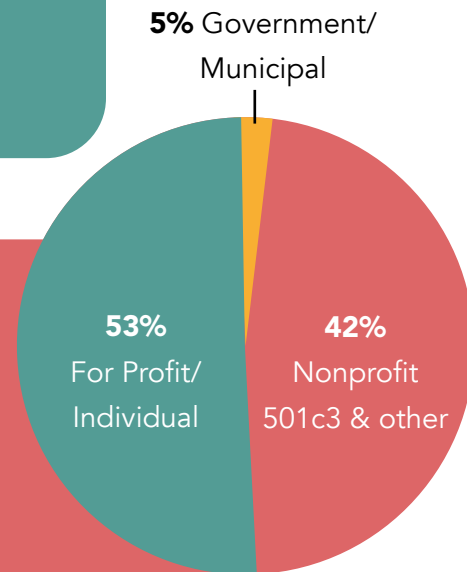
Bozrah	0
Colchester	10
East Lyme	22
Franklin	1
Griswold	5
Groton	54
Lebanon	5
Ledyard	12
Lisbon	2
Lyme	1
Montville	5
New London	97
North Stonington	6
Norwich	59
Old Lyme	21
Preston	8
Salem	6
Sprague	3
Stonington	67
Voluntown	1
Waterford	15
New London County	3
Outside Southeast CT	98

TOTAL 501

Northeast Region *(since Jan. 2021)*

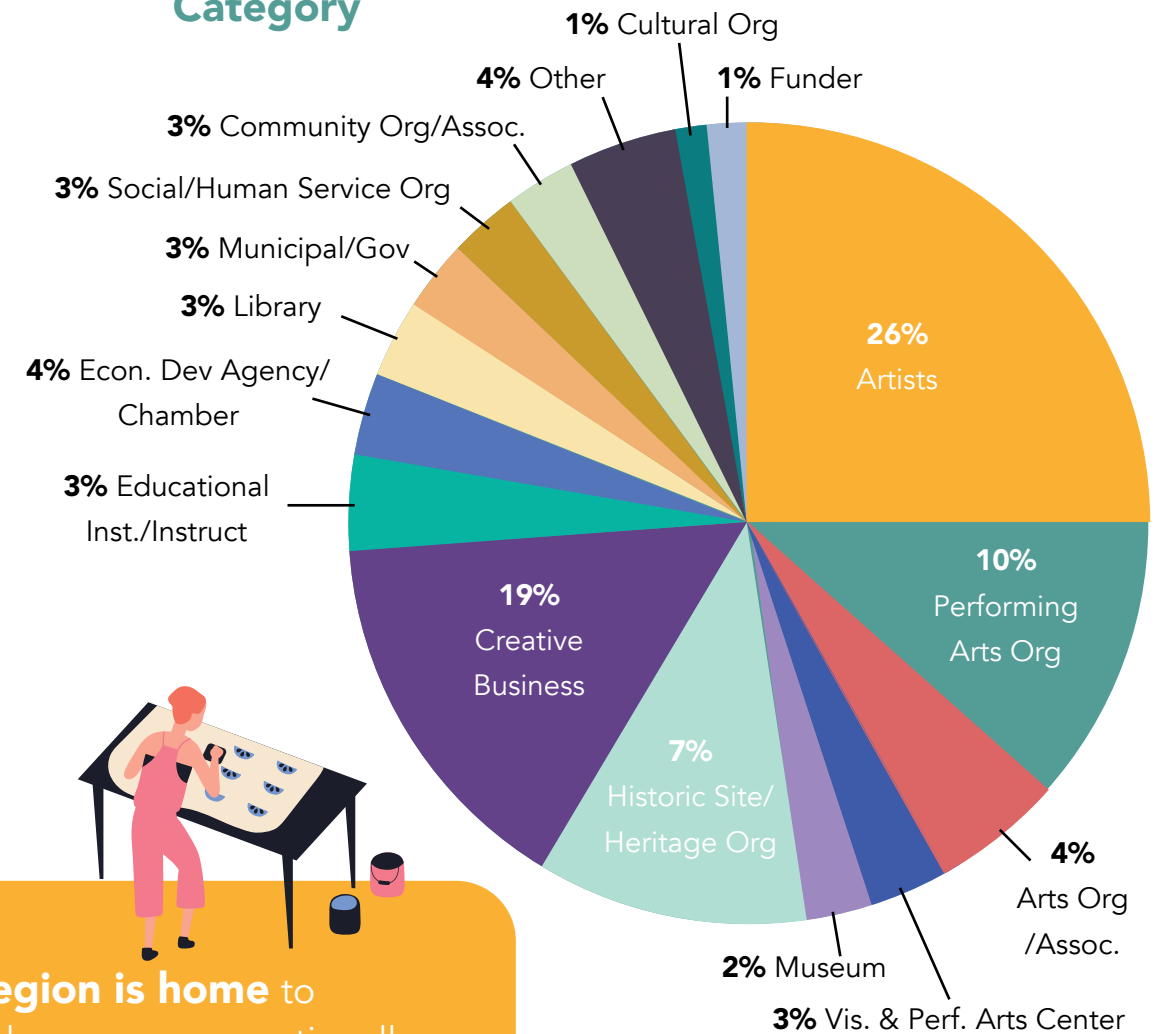
Ashford	1
Brooklyn	0
Canterbury	1
Chaplin	1
Columbia	0
Coventry	7
Eastford	0
Hampton	0
Killingly	3
Mansfield	14
Plainfield	1
Pomfret	5
Putnam	6
Scotland	0
Stafford	1
Sterling	1
Thompson	3
Union	0
Willington	2
Windham (Town of)	3
City of Willimantic	12
Woodstock	3
Outside NER & SECT	8

TOTAL 72



Our members make up a robust and vibrant creative economy that has a ripple effect on quality of life, tourism, economic development, health & wellness, and community vitality in the region.

Category



Our region is home to world-class museums, nationally recognized performing & visual arts centers, local, regional and national history & heritage assets, innovative creative businesses, and a bevy of talented musicians, artists, thespians and other members of the creative community.

Cultural Connections

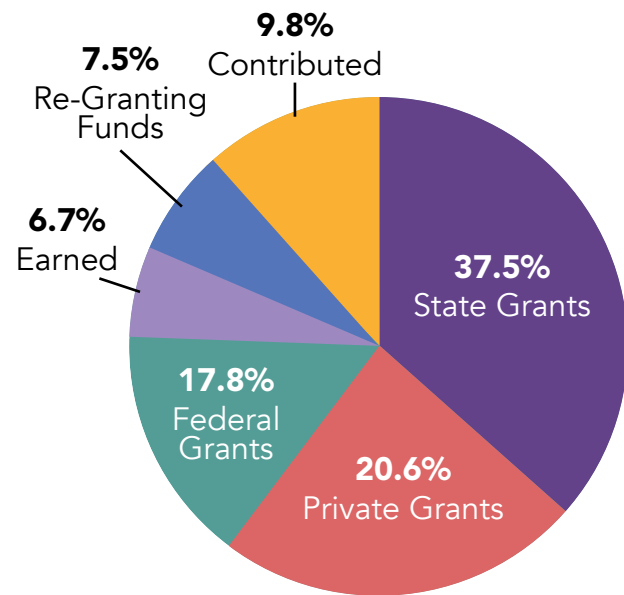
Find out more about our members in the free online Directory, Cultural Connections.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Cultural Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. We pursue our mission with financial conservatism and transparency. The Coalition is committed to the highest level of integrity in its administrative, service and outreach activities; and we maintain records accurately and transparently.

FY 2020-2021 INCOME



*Deferred revenue as of 06/30/21 was \$58,058.

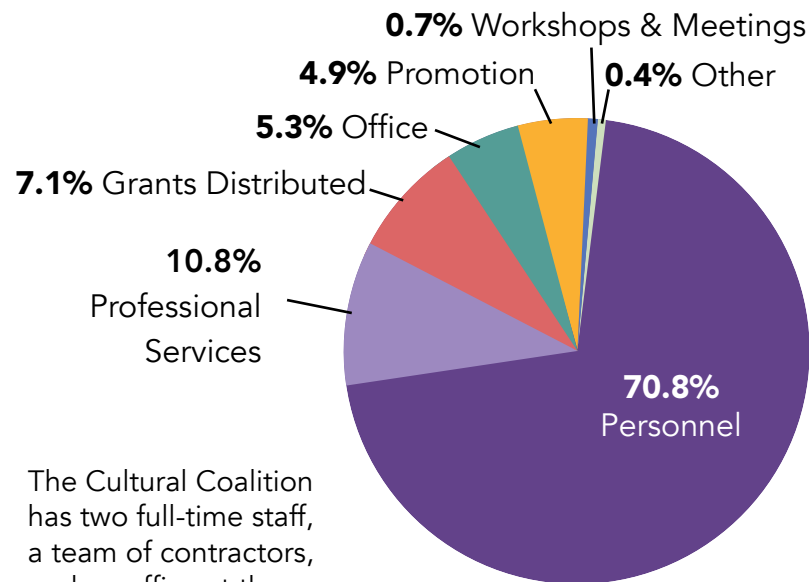
Our largest grants in 2021 came from the CT Office of the Arts/Department of Economic and Community Development to deliver services as the Designated Regional Service Organization for 42 towns in eastern Connecticut, and from Connecticut Humanities as part of the CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants. Major grant support also came from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund.

The Cultural Coalition secured Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds to maintain employment for two full-time staff.

We are grateful to numerous donors, sponsors, and Supporting Cast members for their support and to businesses for their in-kind donations of services.

FY 2020-2021 EXPENSES

Reflecting the Board of Directors' belief that the Coalition ensures concomitant growth of resources to advance our mission, including personnel, financial resources and facilities, our goal is to financially invest in the future.



The Cultural Coalition has two full-time staff, a team of contractors, and an office at the Foundry66 co-work space in Norwich.

SUPPORTING CAST & DONORS



Supporting Cast

Members of the Supporting Cast have made a three-year commitment to help the Cultural Coalition AMPLIFY our voice for the cultural sector, our programs and services, and our impact.

STEWARDS

(\$500 - \$999/year)

- Anonymous
- Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
- Mystic Seaport Museum

FRIENDS

(\$300 - \$499/year)

- Daniel & Kathryn Brandl
- Florence Griswold Museum
- Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
- Lyman Allyn Art Museum
- Morgan & Lisa McGinley
- Mystic Knotwork, LLC

PATRONS

(\$2,500 - \$4,999/year)

- Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation, Inc.

AMBASSADORS

(\$1,000 - \$2,499/year)

- Connecticut College
- Tom & Marcia Marien
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center/
- Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation



2021 Donors

- Caleb Bailey & Dr. Sara Baker Bailey
- Dara Blackstone
- Theresa Broach
- Ashby Carlisle
- Connecticut Early Music Society
- Ralph Crispino, Jr.
- Eastern Connecticut Ballet, Inc.

- Jerome & Christine Fischer
- Carol Androccio Lewitt
- Gail and Bruce MacDonald
- David Madacsi
- Bud McAllister
- Patricia McManus, LLC *
- Mystic Paper Beasts Theatre Co./Dragon's Egg
- Joanne Paradis
- Lori Robishaw

- Bob & Nita Ross
- Nishant Sahoo - Merrill Lynch
- Tom & Candy Sanford
- Sea Research Foundation, Inc. /Mystic Aquarium
- Sideways Studio
- Town of Groton
- Michael & Jennifer Urgo

*In-kind donation

Thank you also to donors who have supported us online through AmazonSmile Foundation, Facebook Fundraiser/Network for Good, and PayPal Giving Fund programs.

2021 BENEFACTORS, MATCHING GIFTS, GRANTS & SPONSORS

BeneFACTORS



Matching Gifts

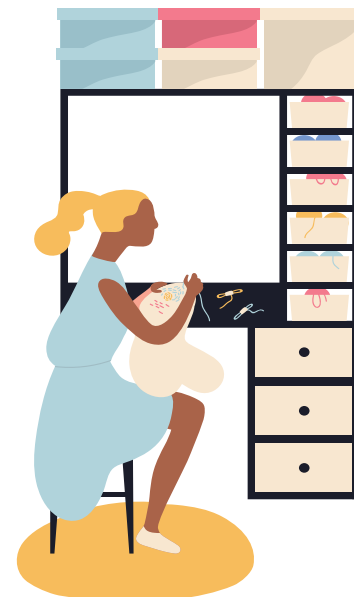
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation

Grants

Chelsea Groton Foundation
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut
Connecticut Humanities
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
Frank L Palmer FD TR, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee
Make Music Alliance Inc.
Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation, Inc.
State of CT, Office of the Arts/
Department of Economic & Community
Development
The Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation,
Bank of America, N.A. Trustee

Sponsors

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Conway, Londregan, Sheehan
& Monaco, P.C.
Cumulus Media
Dominion Energy
Charitable Foundation
New London Music Festivals
Southeastern CT Enterprise
Region (seCTer)



BOARD, ADVISORY COUNCIL & STAFF

Board of Directors (Dec. 2021)

CO-CHAIRS

Nishant Sahoo – Financial Advisor, Devoe/Schrage/Sahoo and Associates
– Merrill Lynch (Stonington)

Chandler Smith – Associate Producer, Eugene O’Neill Theater Center (Waterford)

VICE CHAIR

Caleb Bailey – Executive Director, Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
(New London)

TREASURER

Tyler Eames – Market Manager VP, People’s United Bank (Madison)

SECRETARY

Dan McMahon – Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Goodspeed
Musicals (East Haddam)

Carrie Dyer – Chief Executive
Officer, Reliance Health, Inc.
(Norwich)

Rachael Gaudio – Attorney,
Waller, Smith & Palmer, P.C.
(New London)

Rachael Gavin – Founder/CEO,
PR(iSM) Resistance Coalition
(New London)

Kolton Harris – Program
Associate, Connecticut Office of
the Arts (New London)

Captain Andrea Marcille
(ret. USCG) – President,
U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Alumni Association
(New London)

Advisory Council

Nancy Bulkeley – Senior
Community Affairs
Representative, Dominion Energy
(Waterford)

Eric Garofano – Attorney,
Conway, Londregan, Sheehan &
Monaco, P.C. (Stonington)

Lisa McGinley – Retired,
Deputy Managing Editor, The
Day (New London)

Robert Richter – Director of
Arts Programming, Connecticut
College (New London)

Robert Ross – Executive Director,
Connecticut Office of Military
Affairs (Hartford/Groton)

Steve Sigel – Executive Director,
Garde Arts Center (New London)

Christopher Zendan – (Groton)

Staff

Wendy Bury, Executive Director

Deb Mathiasen, Assistant Director

Please contact us if your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled in this report.

