

CULTURAL COALITION

serving southeastern & northeastern CT

P.O. Box 95, New London, CT 06320 | (860) 448-5135 | info@CultureSECT.org | www.CultureSECT.org

Stonington ARPA Grant for Arts & Culture Guidelines

Our Program

The Cultural Coalition has partnered with the Town of Stonington to manage and administer municipal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated for arts & culture through grant programs and special projects.

The program is funded with \$52,000 allocated from the Town of Stonington American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds are intended to support investments that help our local economy continue to address Covid-19 impact and recovery.

Grant Information

A total of \$46,800 will be available with maximum grant awards of \$10,000.

- Grant funding period is June 1 to December 31, 2022. Funds must be used only for activities during the funding period. No retroactive expenses.
- Eligible uses of grant funds include capital improvement, programs/activities, equipment/technology, utilities/rent, staffing/contractors, professional development, board governance/internal support, marketing/promotion, Covid-19 related expenses.
- Applicants may NOT have previously received ARPA funding from the Town, Borough or Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce ARPA grant program.
- Applicants must be located in Town of Stonington, including Stonington Borough.
- Applicants may request up to \$10,000 in funding. There is no minimum request.
- No match is required.
- Grant awards will be all or nothing. No partial grants will be awarded. The need for partial or full funding will not impact grant decisions.
- Grant funds must be fully expended during the grant period.
- Events, activities, and programs must take place in the Town of Stonington.
- Funds used for events/activities/programs must take place in an ADA compliant location (see Grant webpage under "Resources").
- One application per business/organization/artist is allowed.

Additional Information

- Funds must be used to respond to the negative impacts of Covid-19.
- No fiscal sponsors.
- Budget template available if needed or desired. (see Grant webpage under "Resources")
- Grant Scoring Rubric available (see Grant webpage under "Resources")

If you need assistance to apply for the grant, please let us know. Special accommodations including large print formats, translated forms, and interpreters can be made available. Please contact us as soon as possible, so we can work with you on completing the form.

The Cultural Coalition utilizes the lens of READI – Relevance, Equity, Accessible, Diverse, Inclusive – in these grant programs, which is in alignment with CT Office of the Arts policy and national best practices. BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, People of Color – are strongly encouraged to apply. (see Grant webpage under "Resources")

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Who is Eligible?

Creative businesses, individual or teaching artists, and non-profit organizations located in and have a history of serving the Stonington community. First time grant applicants should contact Wendy Bury at w.bury@culturesect.org for assistance. For more information on creative business eligibility, please refer to [Creative Economy Businesses](#) list.

If you are a Stonington non-arts & cultural business, or non-profit organization, and have a proposal for a public art project, you are eligible and may apply for a grant.

Since this funding is related to COVID recovery, businesses must have been established before October 2021.

Who is Not Eligible?

- Town of Stonington municipal agencies and departments are not eligible for this funding.
- Applicants with local, State, or Federal tax delinquencies, other delinquent fees, or open regulatory violations will not be considered.
- Applicants with a fiscal sponsor are not eligible.
- Projects will not be funded until written Town approval(s) are provided, when applicable.

Stonington Timeline ARPA Grant for Arts & Culture (up to \$10k)

4/29/22 - Information Session

First week of May - Grant Application Opens for Norwich, New London and Stonington

5/23/22 - Grant Application Closes

5/24/22 - Internal Grant Panel Review Begins

Early June - Recommended Grant Awards are Announced

June 2023 – Grant Reports Due

OPTIONAL Professional Development Cohort Opportunity

As part of the Cultural Coalition's administration of municipal ARPA funds for arts & culture in partnership with the City of Norwich, City of New London and Town of Stonington, ARPA grant recipients will have the option to participate in a professional development cohort. The application includes a question for applicants to opt-in to this program that:

- Provides \$1,000 - \$1,500 in additional funds for professional development
- Requires a one (1) year commitment to participate in a series of workshops, meetings, etc. with a minimum attendance requirement
- Tracks for nonprofits, for-profits and individual artists to help address the impact of covid and speed recovery
- Allows for grantees to connect and collaborate, and create a peer-to-peer network

Additional details, including program partners can be found [HERE](#).

Technical Notes for Survey Monkey Application

- Applicants must be prepared to complete the online application in its entirety and on the same device.
- **Users are unable to save and return at a later time.**
- Applicants are encouraged to review their eligibility and application questions and prepare their responses in a WORD document. When ready to apply online, copy and paste the prepared responses into the appropriate sections.