MISSION
Our mission is to improve 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

STATEGIC PLAN
2020 – 2025

Connecticut

Provide Industry Support
Advocate & Educate
Contribute to Economic Development
Foster Community Engagement

Support Economic & Social Recovery
Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism

Designated Regional Service Organization

In partnership with the CT Office of the Arts, Department of Economic and Community Development, the Cultural Coalition is a Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO) supporting our 42 town region in eastern Connecticut.

Southeast towns (since 2014):
Bozrah | Colchester | East Lyme | Franklin
Griswold | Groton | Lebanon | Ledyard | Lisbon
Lyme | Montville | New London | North Stonington
Norwich | Old Lyme | Preston | Salem | Sprague
Stonington | Voluntown | Waterford

Northeast towns (since 2021):
Ashford | Brooklyn | Canterbury | Chaplin
Columbia | Coventry | Eastford | Hampton
Killingly | Mansfield | Plainfield | Pomfret | Putnam
Scotland | Stafford | Sterling | Thompson | Union
Willington | Windham | Woodstock
The positive outcomes of the Cultural Coalition’s efforts have never been more evident than during 2022. It has truly been a YEAR OF IMPACT, with the results noticeable across all of eastern Connecticut.

Arts and culture are vital to economic and community health, and regional success begins at the local level.

- We work to unite and strengthen the creative community – the individuals, for profit entities, and nonprofit organizations – that participate in arts, culture, history or creative pursuits.
- We seek to improve the environment that supports the local creative community by partnering with municipalities to help them integrate and invest in arts and culture.
- We serve as the “voice” of the creative community on the local, regional, state and national level. Recovery for the creative economy continues and our work as a liaison with legislators, and leaders of the business, education, tribal, military, health & wellness, and tourism sectors is especially important.

We look forward to continuing to support the recovery of the arts and cultural community and working together to strengthen the region’s economic and community health.

CT Cultural Fund Operating Support Grants - FY22

The Cultural Coalition conducted outreach to the region’s arts, cultural, history, humanities and arts-based entities to notify them of potential eligibility for an unprecedented opportunity. With funding provided by the Department of Economic and Community Development from the Connecticut State Legislature, in partnership with the CT Office of the Arts, CT Humanities awarded 110 grants/$2.8 million to organizations in the eastern CT towns served by the Cultural Coalition. In terms of impact:

- 88% used the funds to hire or keep employees
- 33% used the funds to support K-12 education
- 52% used the funds to improve technology and digital initiatives
The Funding Booster Program provides free resources and professional development programs to improve the arts and cultural community’s ability to capitalize on funding opportunities. In 2022, new funding opportunities were opened to individual artists and creative businesses. Our Program Manager provided one-on-one consultations, many with first-time applicants, that included review of budget proposals and draft narratives.

94% of the program participants that were helped received a grant award. 8 Drop-In Clinics served 75+ attendees. The annual Grants 101 training, Funders Forum, and NEA Info. Session were well attended and provided useful advice to all levels of potential grant applicants.

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. The Cultural Coalition assisted four municipalities with the management and administration of local ARPA investments in arts & culture. Support and recommendations to address priority needs were provided to:

- **CITY OF NORWICH**
  ($500K custom 2 year program - including 2 rounds of grants, establish a Norwich Public Art Committee, new public art, collaboration with Norwich Community Development Corp.)

- **CITY OF NEW LONDON**
  ($130K grant program – in coordination with Cultural District Commission)

- **TOWN OF STONINGTON**
  ($52K grant program)

- **TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON**
  ($15K purchase of portable stage)

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“Thank you for giving me an opportunity to do something for my beloved city!”
- ARTIST, FIRST-TIME GRANT APPLICANT

We Awarded 38 ARPA Grants for Local Arts & Culture
Used for projects, public art, programs & recovery within the municipality awarded

- **$258,163 Total (3 municipalities)**
- **66% Artists/Creative Businesses**
- **42% First Time Ever Received Grant Funding**

We Created a Professional Development Cohort for 28 ARPA Grantees
Year-long series of free quarterly workshops
Needs identified/addressed: Intro. to Business & Strategic Planning, Financial Strategies for Artists, Broadening Your Impact in Your Community (Relationships), and Marketing & Promotions.

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We hosted “Arts & Culture Outlook 2022: What You Need to Know.” The Cultural Coalition shared lessons learned from 2021 and announced scaled-up support for municipalities and the arts & cultural community. Arts as change agents for social & racial justice and a tool for community healing were also highlighted.
Northeastern CT Arts & Culture Community

The Cultural Coalition’s Northeast Region Coordinator provided dedicated support in connecting the creative community with Cultural Coalition programs and services. There were 126 attendees at 7 in-person or online Roundtables responding to the region’s unique needs.

- The Town of Putnam & Cultural Coalition hosted Congressman Joe Courtney for site visits (Sawmill Pottery) and roundtable discussion about Federal support.
- The local creative community, municipal and economic development representatives came together for a discussion of opportunities and challenges for Mansfield’s arts, culture and heritage community.

5TH ANNUAL Make Music Day Southeastern CT June 21, 2022

Part of Make Music Day, a global music celebration held on the summer solstice that brings people of all ages and skill levels together to share music in free public performances.

75 Performances
58 Performers
28 Host Venues
8 Towns

ThrIVE! Conference at Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center

Co-created by the Cultural Coalition and Pequot tribal partners, the panelists and speakers from eastern CT shared their lived experiences and fostered discussions around healing from the pandemic, working through racial and social injustices, and recovering from economic challenges.

Relevance, Equity, Access, Diversity & Inclusion (READI)

The Cultural Coalition continues to advance diversity, equity, inclusion & anti-racism by using a READI lens in all that we do - from administering ARPA arts & culture grants and offering “pay what you can afford” tickets at THRIVE!, to participating in organizational coaching and personal training sessions. The Board and staff are committed to ongoing and intentional actions to bring about social change in our organization and in the region, including working to remove structural barriers to success for the creative community.

“Our Outreach & Community Impact Coordinator attended community activities that resulted in new relationships with arts and cultural entities that were not being served by the Cultural Coalition. A social media “studio tour” series helped to showcase artists and their spaces. Emerging artists and creators were connected with Cultural Coalition services and supported through new funding opportunities.”
Our Members

580+ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bozrah</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Lyme</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griswold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groton</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
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<td>Ledyard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyme</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montville</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New London</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Stonington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Lyme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sprague</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stonington</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New London County</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Southeast CT</td>
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TOTAL 498

Northeast Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Members</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplin</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coventry</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastford</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killingly</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mansfield</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pomfret</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stafford</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sterling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willington</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windham (Town of)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willimantic</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside NER &amp; SECT</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 91

- 53% For Profit/Individual
- 42% Nonprofit 501c3 & other
- 5% Government/Municipal
Our members create 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.

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.

Thanks to the investment in our organization to manage re-granting programs in 2022, we were able to assist several municipalities with the distribution of their ARPA funds dedicated to arts and culture for local projects, public art and programs.

FY 2021-2022 INCOME

Our largest grants in 2022 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 FY22 Operating Support Grants. Major grant support for our organization also came from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

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 2021-2022 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.

Performers at Rotary Club of Norwich’s Celebrate Cultural Diversity event
DONORS

Anonymous
Bob & Nita Ross
Borough of Stonington
Connecticut College
Dara Blackstone
Emma Palzere-Rae
Eric Garofano
Eugene O’Neill Theater Center
Florence Griswold Museum
Gail and Bruce MacDonald
Jerome and Christine Fischer
Joanne Paradis
Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
Kathleen Stauffer
Lavender Design
Lyman Allyn Art Museum
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center/Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Matt McCauley & Ashby Carlisle
Miranda Creative, Inc.
Morgan & Lisa McGinley
Mystic Knotwork, LLC
Mystic Seaport Museum
Ralph Crispino, Jr.
Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation, Inc.
Sideways Studio
Theresa Broach
Tom & Marcia Marien
Town of Groton
Town of Lisbon

Thank you also to donors who have supported us online through the AmazonSmile Foundation.
2022 SUPPORT

Benefactors

Chelsea Groton Foundation
Make Music Alliance Inc.
Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation Inc.

Grants

Chelsea Groton Foundation
Make Music Alliance Inc.
Robert G. Youngs Family Foundation Inc.

Matching Gifts

Bank of America Employee Giving
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union

Sponsors

Charter Oak Federal
Credit Union
Chelsea Groton Bank
City of New London,
New London Cultural District
Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut
Connecticut College
Connecticut Humanities
Cumulus Media
Eugene O’Neill
Theater Center
Garde Arts Center
Goodspeed Musicals
Greater Mystic
Chamber of Commerce
Mashantucket Pequot
Museum & Research Center
Mitchell College
New London
Music Festivals
Norwich Free Academy/
Slater Memorial Museum
Norwich Public Utilities

Old Possum’s Jazz Band, Make Music Day Southeastern CT in New London
BOARD, ADVISORY COUNCIL
& OUR TEAM

Board of Directors (Dec. 2022)

CHAIR
Nishant Sahoo – Wealth Management Advisor, Devoe/Schrage/Sahoo and Associates – Merrill Lynch (Stonington)

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

TREASURER
Tyler Eames – (Lyme)

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

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

Samson Tonton – Artist, Artsbytonton (Norwich)

Elizabeth Wood – Executive Director, Stonington Historical Society (Stonington)

Advisory Council

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

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

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

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

Rich Martin – Owner, The Telegraph (New London)

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

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

Christopher Zendan – (Groton)

Our Team

Wendy Bury, Executive Director

Kia Baird, Outreach & Community Impact Coordinator

Deb Mathiasen, Assistant Director

Charlene Haukom, Northeast Region Coordinator

Jessica Morozowich, Funding Booster Program Manager

Sarbani Hazra, Norwich Arts & Culture Coordinator

Please contact us if your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled in this report.
Cover design & report layout by Love & Pop Designs.
CONNECT
COLLABORATE
COMMUNICATE

FRONT COVER PHOTOS: (TOP-BOTTOM, L-R) Crisscross XVI, UConn Campus, The William Benton Museum of Art, Storrs; Metamorphosis, by artist Carlitos Skills, 59 Broadway, Norwich; MLK39 Mural at Mansfield Community Center, Storrs; Marquee of the Garde Arts Center, New London; Art at the Airport Summer Exhibit, image by Candace John, Groton; Hands-on-instruments at Make Music Day Southeastern CT, Old Lyme; Boutique at The Complex Performing and Creative Arts Centre, Putnam; Smudging at THRIVE conference, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (photo by Laura Stone Photography)