



# 2022 | 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



## 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

Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
Office Of The Arts

Connecticut



# 2022: A YEAR OF IMPACT

## 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.

▲ Background artwork by Jackie Rivera; ▼ Pocket Vinyl at Wauregan Gallery, First Friday in Norwich



## 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



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



**80+**  
events,  
roundtables and  
forums



**76%**  
activities  
conducted  
virtually



**457**  
in-person  
participants,  
including 125  
at THRIVE!  
Conference



**2,000+**  
receive monthly  
e-news & need  
to know  
communications

## 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)

“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.

## 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.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS  
arts.gov

“I left with a clear idea of grant programs that were a realistic fit for my organization, and really feeling excited and confident to start the process.”

“The Funding Booster Program is such a boon to artists and nonprofits. They walk you through the whole process in an easy-to-understand way and I would not have known about half of the opportunities available!”

## 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.



# 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.



PHOTOS BY:  
LAURA STONE  
PHOTOGRAPHY



## 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

Pongetti at Custom House Maritime Museum in New London



## 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."

# CULTURAL COALITION

## 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

(since 2014)

Bozrah	0
Colchester	10
East Lyme	24
Franklin	1
Griswold	5
Groton	56
Lebanon	5
Ledyard	12
Lisbon	1
Lyme	1
Montville	6
New London	98
North Stonington	6
Norwich	49
Old Lyme	22
Preston	8
Salem	4
Sprague	4
Stonington	64
Voluntown	1
Waterford	16
New London County	3
Outside Southeast CT	102

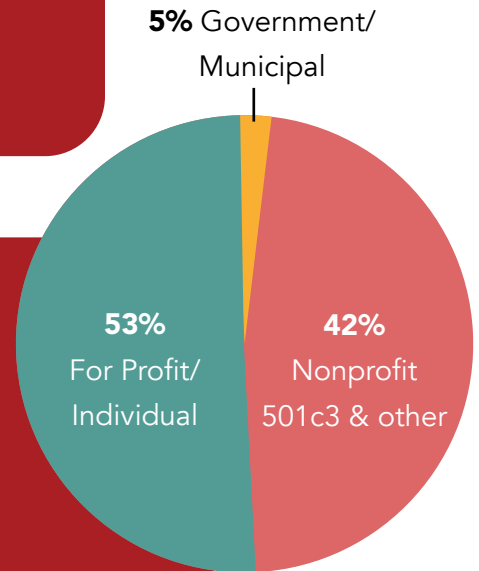
**TOTAL 498**

### Northeast Region

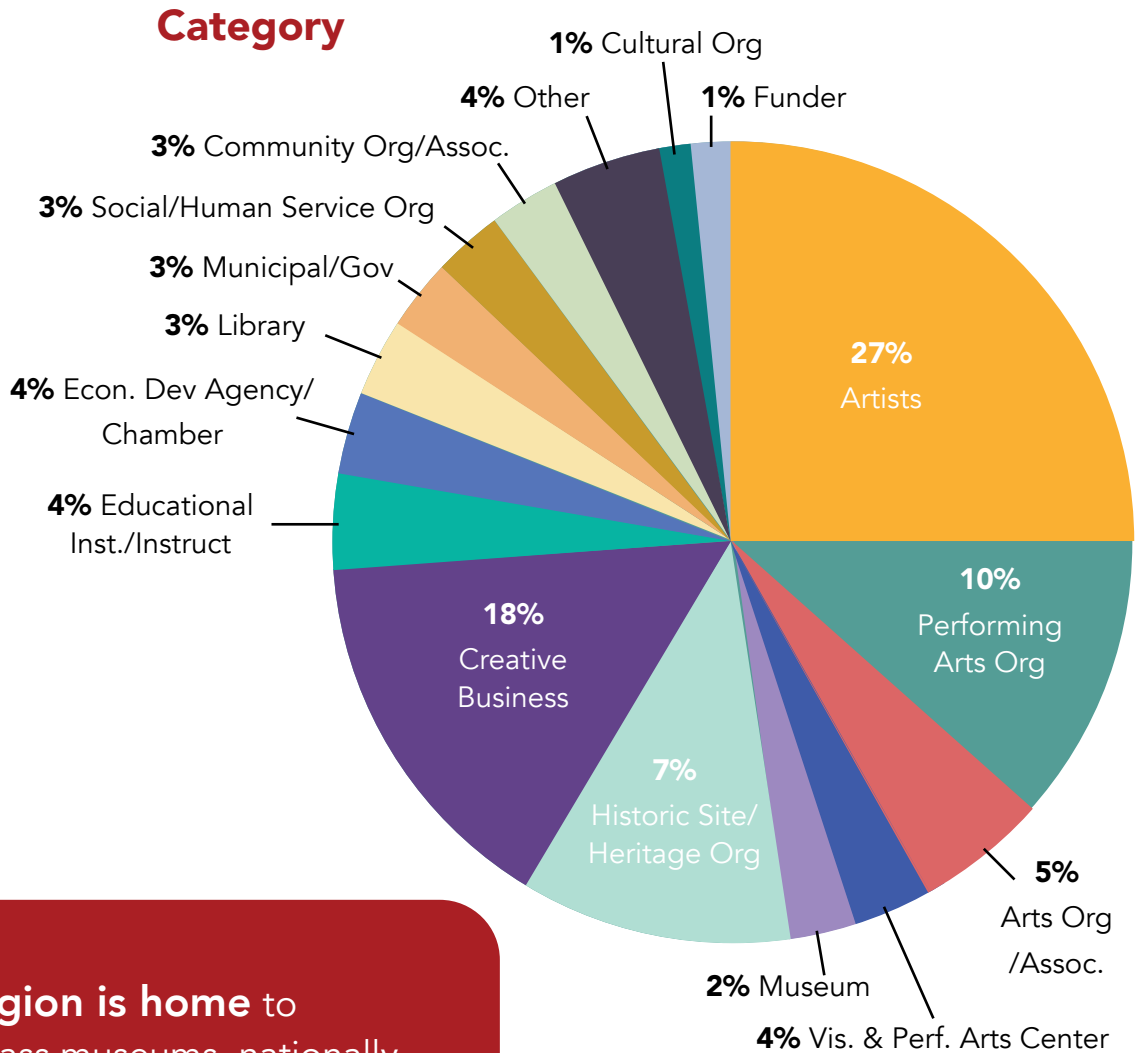
(since Jan. 2021)

Ashford	1
Brooklyn	0
Canterbury	3
Chaplin	1
Columbia	0
Coventry	8
Eastford	1
Hampton	0
Killingly	5
Mansfield	19
Plainfield	2
Pomfret	5
Putnam	15
Scotland	0
Stafford	0
Sterling	1
Thompson	2
Union	0
Willington	6
Windham (Town of)	4
City of Willimantic	11
Woodstock	2
Outside NER & SECT	5

**TOTAL 91**



**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**

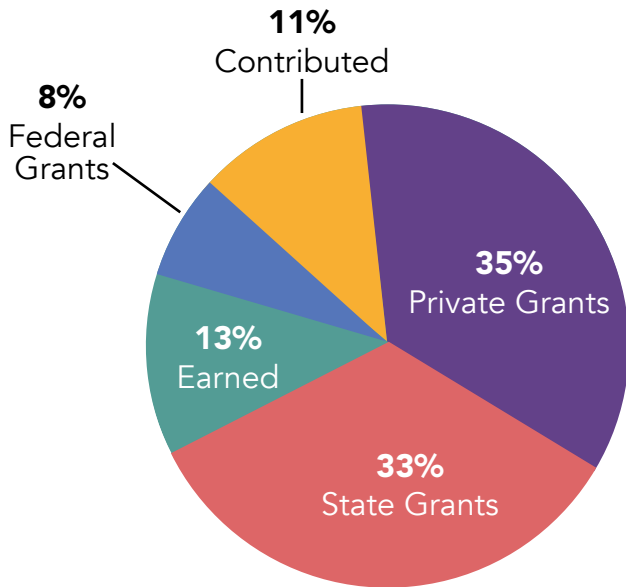
Find out more about our members in the free online Directory, Cultural Connections.



# 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.



\* Deferred revenue as of 06/30/22 was \$55,232.  
 Note: Fiscal sponsorships & ARPA Grants not included.

## FY 2021-2022 INCOME

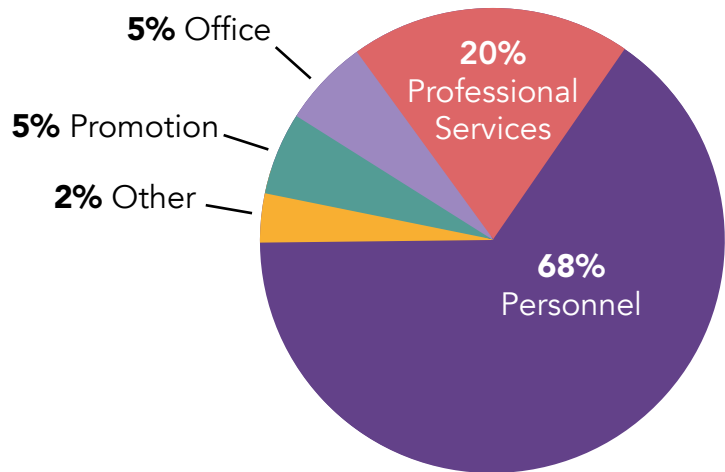
Our largest grants in 2022 came from the CT Office of the Arts/Department of Economic and Community Development to deliver services as the Designated Regional Service Organization for 42 towns in eastern Connecticut, and from Connecticut Humanities as part of the CT Cultural Fund FY22 Operating Support 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.



Note: Fiscal sponsorships & ARPA Grants not included.



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.



Mural by artist Kern Bruce at Child & Family Agency, New London



# 2022 SUPPORT

## Benefactors

YaleNewHavenHealth  
Lawrence + Memorial Hospital

Chelsea Groton  
Feel good about your bank\*

## Grants

Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
Office of the Arts

Connecticut

CThumanities



Community Foundation  
of Eastern Connecticut

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)*

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

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

**Rich Martin** – *Owner, The Telegraph (New London)*

**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)*

## Our Team

**Wendy Bury**, *Executive Director*

**Deb Mathiasen**, *Assistant Director*

**Jessica Morozowich**, *Funding Booster Program Manager*

**Kia Baird**, *Outreach & Community Impact Coordinator*

**Charlene Haukom**, *Northeast Region Coordinator*

**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)

## CULTURAL COALITION

serving southeastern & northeastern CT

Foundry 66, 66 Franklin St., Norwich, CT 06360

**CultureSECT.org**