

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ORLEANS
2021 COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS
Grant Activity Period: January 1 – December 31, 2021

The Community Arts Grants program provides critical support to non-profit arts and cultural organizations domiciled in Orleans Parish whose programs impact its residents. **In 2021, due to COVID-19, nonprofit arts organizations will continue pivoting, offering virtual and social-distanced programs as allowed by the City.** If pandemic subsides during 2021, organizations will be able to once again pivot programming to another new normal, probably live with continued social distancing. This grants program is made possible with funding from the City of New Orleans and is administered by the Arts Council New Orleans.

CATEGORY: MORE JOY

Black Men of Labor, Inc. \$3,800

To support the Black Men of Labor Annual Social Aid and Pleasure Parade featuring New Orleans Traditional Jazz Music in 2021, as allowed by COVID-19 restrictions.

Creole Wild West \$3,100

To support the operations of Creole Wild West as it continues to increase awareness and interest of the Mardi Gras Indian Tradition, and collaborate on positive social and community actions, particularly among Mardi Gras Indian youth. After it is safe to do so, free in-person Saturday workshops of onsite education for children in Mardi Gras Indian culture, including creating suits, the history of the tradition, and traditional Indian music, will begin again.

Krewe of Red Beans \$2,980

To support a walking parade on Lundi Gras featuring hand-crafted bean suits and Brazilian carnival music through the Bywater, 7th ward, and Treme neighborhoods. Should COVID impact parading for Carnival 2021, there will be a photo-exhibit of our “bean suits” along our traditional parade route and use the occasion to create a charity-fundraiser for the musicians that would normally perform for us on Lundi Gras.

Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame/UNOLA \$3,100

To support the publishing of a retrospective of the Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame's twenty-year existence and Mardi Gras Indian funerary rites and its distribution at local repositories including Amistad Research Center, New Orleans Public Library, Historic New Orleans Collection, Midlo Center at UNO, Newcomb College Institute, and Southern University Museum.

New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Council, Inc. \$3,800

To support Super Sunday 2021, typically held on the third Sunday of March. Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, in the event it cannot host Super Sunday, funds will be used to increase awareness and interest of the Mardi Gras Indian Traditions.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: MORE JOY

Newcomb Arts Museum of Tulane University

\$3,000

To support the collaborative public performance between New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian tribes and Brooklyn-based stilt performers “Jumbies” in conjunction with Newcomb’s 2021 exhibition featuring works of Mexican-born artist Laura Anderson Barbata, who uses public performance to bring awareness to different crises impacting local communities.

No Dream Deferred NOLA

\$3,000

To support the adaptation of “Follow Me,” featuring music, storytelling, interviews with culture bearers, and visual arts from New Orleans creatives, into an online interactive web series for families. Funds will be used to compensate the artists and culture workers who appear or whose works appear in the series.

Original CTC Steppers

\$3,000

To support the Original “Cross the Canal” Steppers Social Aid & Pleasure Club Annual Second Line Parade held in the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood of New Orleans. If no second lines are permitted in 2021, the Original CTC Steppers will plan virtual activities that ensure the continuity of New Orleans cultural traditions and maintain the social cohesion for these traditions, using funds to purchase beads, ribbon, and fabric supplies for the club members to work on Indian suits and pass these traditions on to the younger generations in families.

The Red Flame Hunters Mardi Gras Indian Tribe

\$3,100

To support teaching the traditions of the Mardi Gras Indian and Second Line Club to local youth who promote the culture through performances. With our 2021 funds, we will purchase additional supplies for suits and additional computers necessary for distance learning.

VIP Ladies and Kids Social Aid and Pleasure Club

\$3,000

To support the Annual VIP Ladies & Kids Social Aid & Pleasure Club Second Line Parade to be held in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans in March 2021. This parade has a reputation of showcasing one of the largest, prettiest, safest, and the most family oriented Second Line parades in NOLA. COVID-19 guidelines will be enforced accordingly.

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

826 New Orleans

\$5,500

To support the continuation of 826 New Orleans educational programs offering New Orleans students who struggle with literacy standard the opportunity of developing their writing skills outside their school classes, operating remotely with adjusted programming, offering academic support to students and families via phone, video conferencing and video lessons shared on YouTube, and safely delivered books and supplies to after school students’ homes.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

ArtSpot Productions, Inc.

\$5,500

To support the development of a new piece of original theatre focusing on eliminating oppressions that complies with the constrictions imposed by the pandemic and to continue our work in partnership with Alternate ROOTS, Antenna, The Graduates, Newcomb Art Gallery, A Studio in the Woods, Louisiana Citizens United, The Center for Restorative Approaches, and the St. Charles Avenue Center for Faith and Justice focusing on the creation of a just and equitable society.

Ashé Cultural Arts Center (Efforts of Grace, Inc.)

\$15,000

To support Ashé as it continues to fulfill its mission through creative virtual arts programming, activities, and creative works that emphasize the contributions of artists, writers, performers, actors, dancers, and speakers of African descent from New Orleans and around the world. Ashé will resume live programming as soon as allowed by City regulations.

Birdfoot Chamber Music Festival

\$3,000

To support Birdfoot Chamber Music Festival 10th Anniversary Festival, with contingency plans to address the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic regarding when live concerts will be able to resume. Options include multiple short performances for small audiences, live digital relays for retirement center residents and hospital patients, and potentially moving the annual festival to early April where the festival would be held outdoors in local parks assuming public health guidelines or audience comfort doesn't allow for performing indoors.

Clay Center of New Orleans

\$2,500

To support community-oriented ceramics studio education programs as well as ceramic exhibitions as allowed by COVID-19 restrictions.

Contemporary Arts Center

\$15,000

To support curated exhibitions, performances, and programs by local, regional, national, and international artists, as well as educational programs for youth. Many programs will be offered virtually or with social distancing at the Contemporary Arts Center due to COVID-19.

Creative Alliance of New Orleans

\$2,500

To support CANO's presentations of under-recognized artists in underserved neighborhoods in our creative spaces in Central City as allowed by COVID-19 restrictions, participation in its virtual tours program "Artists in View" featuring videos of artists in their studios and galleries, cultural tours of artists' studios and art collections and continuing the convening of Creative Industries Breakthrough Coalition working to broaden public policies for the arts community.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

Cuba NOLA Arts Collective

\$2,500

To support arts programs that bring together the shared arts traditions of New Orleans, Louisiana, Cuba, the Caribbean, and Latin America through community exchanges that promote cultural wellness and equity both in person as allowed and virtually, and the second annual Open Channels Online Theater Symposium which brings together popular theater practitioners from all over the Caribbean and the United States to explore Caribbean Popular Theater.

Dancing Grounds

\$5,500

To support high-quality accessible dance education and performance programs for youth and adults in all dance genres and programs that work at the intersection of arts, education, and social justice including Dancing Grounds' annual Dance for Social Change Festival all done on a virtual platform. Dancing Grounds hopes to return to in-person programming by 2021 and will continue to adhere to national, state, and local guidelines around health and safety when reopening.

Ellis Marsalis Center for Music

\$15,000

To support education programs for children and youth through virtual teaching using a combination of platforms for group and individual teaching, including Zoom for face-to-face music instruction and Quia for weekly written assignments. A partnership with Apple has enabled the Center to provide students with iPads to use for virtual instruction. These programs will continue until the Center is able to return to normal face-to-face programming including adult piano classes, arts education programs for children and youth, community performances and concerts, and audio recording services.

Friends of A Studio in the Woods

\$5,500

To support a scaled-down season of artist residencies of local and national artists of Rising: Climate in Crisis Residents, create six one-week Relief Residencies for culture bearers and creatives of color who live in New Orleans for six local emerging writers, and scholars from Tulane, Xavier, and Dillard. The Studio is fortunate that because of its isolation and new residency building, it can program up to two residents at any given time safely. Its community-engaged programming has ceased for the foreseeable future, including its summer camp.

Friends of WWOZ Inc.

\$15,000

To support the non-profit community radio station, WWOZ, that broadcasts New Orleans jazz and heritage music 24 hours a day and streams live on WWOZ.org.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

Goat in the Road Productions

\$3,000

To support the development of a new historical piece by a creative team of writers, designers, and performers in collaboration with the Beauregard-Keyes House for an August through December 2021 production, realizing that live theatre is dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions. Play/Write, our educational program, will continue with our partner schools with a possible mix of in-person and virtual teaching that's appropriate for each school. Original theatre pieces written by students will be showcased by local theatre and dance companies, live or virtually.

Guardians Institute

\$3,000

To support the preservation, promotion, and celebration of indigenous Mardi Gras Indian traditions and culture through educational activities to schools virtually and programs at the Donald Harrison, Sr. Museum, and Legacy Performance Pavilion in the 9th Ward neighborhood of New Orleans, as allowed by COVID-19 restrictions.

June Bug Productions Inc.

\$5,500

To support high-quality performing arts that address issues of inequity that have historically impacted African Americans and to provide training for artists interested in using art to create social change, virtually until live programs are allowed.

KID smART

\$15,000

To support in-person, virtual, or a blend of both educational activities including a teaching artist residency in 10 public schools in which professional teaching artists co-plan and co-teach arts-integrated lessons with classroom teachers across a variety of subjects and grade levels reaching an estimate of 3,000 New Orleans students, monthly professional development for a cohort of classroom teachers in which teachers participate in training to reinforce their collaboration with the teaching artist, and arts experiences for students in which students participate in visits (virtually or in-person) to museums such as the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and attend performances by cultural touchstones such as the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Orleans Ballet Association.

Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre

\$15,000

To support Le Petit Theatre's 104th season, including a five-show season and exploring the possibilities of doing live performances at the theatre with limited seating capacity, masks, and social distancing, doing virtual performances that are filmed at the theatre but streamed online, or a combination of both, and educational programs to schools in an outdoor setting.

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

\$15,000

To support COVID-adaptive programming of the LPO's season of orchestral presentations, including classical concerts, free outdoor concerts, and educational programs for youth in-person, outdoor, and virtually.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

Lyrice Baroque

\$2,500

To support in-person or virtually chamber music concerts, an annual chamber music competition and festival, and an arts-integrated program for school children using music to foster resilient behaviors and facilitate social-emotional intelligence.

Make Music NOLA

\$5,500

To support Make Music NOLA after school program of tuition-free music instruction on string instruments to underserved youth at charter schools and community centers in nine locations in New Orleans, virtually or socially distanced.

Marigny Opera House Foundation

\$5,500

To support the Marigny Opera House Ballet programs as well as presentations of New Orleans-based performing artists, resuming the average of 2.5 performances per week of donation-based concerts and recitals, as allowed by COVID-19 restrictions. If not allowed to open by January 2021, we plan to present a series of live-streamed concerts performed by socially distanced musicians, every week, until our reopening is possible.

Musicians for Music

\$2,500

To support the production of short documentary videos until live performances are allowed again, and Ecos Latinos, a monthly performance series featuring Hispanic musicians, poets, dancers, and visual artists at schools, libraries, and festivals in New Orleans when allowed in 2021.

New Orleans Airlift

\$15,000

To support the creation of collaborative works of public art designed as musical architecture with innovative concerts, events, and educational programs take place involving performers, visual artists, audiences, and communities in our New Orleans space as allowed by the COVID-19 restrictions.

New Orleans Arts & Cultural Host Committee

\$5,500

To support the virtual or in-person Louis Armstrong Jazz Camp that provides music education programs for New Orleans youth involving emerging, national, and internationally known artists as teachers and guest artists, as well as school-day and after-school jazz education classes to students in five New Orleans charter schools through the Louis Armstrong Jazz Academy.

New Orleans Ballet Association

\$15,000

To support the cultivation, understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of dance through presenting world-class dance companies at Mahalia Jackson Theater or in an outdoor setting and tuition-free educational programs reaching 7,500 children, youth, and senior citizens virtually until in-person classes can safely take place.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

New Orleans Chamber Orchestra **\$3,000**

To support high-quality orchestra concerts featuring works by New Orleans composers and vocalists, along with standard repertoire at the Marigny Opera House, or outdoor or live-streaming without audiences, or virtual performances through social media, dependent upon COVID-19 restrictions.

New Orleans Dance Collective **\$2,500**

To support a program of dance as an intervention for inner-city at-risk youth by providing after-school, weekend, and summer training in culturally relevant dance styles including Tap, Hip Hop, African, Jazz, and Ballet in New Orleans Dance Collective new space with all students and teachers wearing masks in social-distanced dance classes.

New Orleans Film and Video Festival, Inc. **\$15,000**

To support the New Orleans Film Societies programmatic activities—festivals, film series, artist labs, and field-building events—without interruption in 2021, pivoting to online gatherings when necessary.

New Orleans Gay Men’s Chorus **\$2,500**

To support New Orleans Gay Men’s Chorus concert series and performances that support numerous community organizations, when able to do so.

New Orleans Jazz Orchestra **\$15,000**

To support virtual presentations of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and other local artists at the New Orleans Jazz Market, and to restart the School of Music Educational Program on Saturdays, and open mic sessions for aspiring musicians when allowed.

New Orleans Opera Association **\$15,000**

To support the "Balcony Ballads" series that includes recorded live performances of operatic duets with piano accompaniment, interviews, and online discussions with the General and Artistic Director, staff, cast, and chorus members until live performances can restart. In 2021 we plan to present Puccini’s MADAMA BUTTERFLY, Beethoven’s FIDELIO, Mozart’s MAGIC FLUTE, and Gershwin’s PORGY & BESS, all social-distanced. We hope to continue our educational programs in-person. If not, our education department will continue to provide online summer camps as done in 2020.

New Orleans Video Access Center, Inc. **\$5,500**

To support the local film community through training, education, community events, production services, and youth arts training programs through a digital platform so that it may be delivered safely until in-person training is allowed.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

New Resonance Orchestra, Inc. **\$2,500**

To support the performance of new works of classical music by living composers featuring an opera singer and highlighting the connections and collaborations between New Orleans and Argentina through live performances at two sites in New Orleans, Marigny Opera House and Moreau Center at the University of Holy Cross. If live performances are not allowed, performers will socially distance and this concert will be recorded and displayed through social media.

The NOCCA Institute **\$15,000**

To support the nonprofit partner of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts High School that provides programs that offer meaningful and substantial arts experiences to NOCCA students, faculty, and the community including an Artists-in-Residence program that brings over 100 visiting artists into NOCCA's classrooms every year and a concert, gallery, and literary series that allow visiting artists to share their work with the public, most to be done virtually in 2021.

Press Street (dba Antenna) **\$15,000**

To support Antenna's arts programming that includes artist residencies, rotating gallery exhibitions, public events, community workshops, and large-scale collaborative projects at Antenna Gallery, Paper Machine, mostly virtually.

Southern Repertory Theatre **\$15,000**

To support Southern Rep's mainstage season focused on new play development with our in-residence companies, present music, comedy, drag, cabaret, and an educational program for teens online or in-person in 2021.

Symphony Chorus of New Orleans **\$2,500**

To support choral concerts by an all-volunteer chorus singing classical music with live musicians for New Orleans audiences as well as the Symphony Chorus's educational outreach program, done in new outside space with a smaller chorus, social-distanced, possibly masked, due to restrictions imposed on signers.

Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival **\$5,500**

To support The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival featuring broad-ranging literary programs that appeal to and inspire diverse audiences: writers, actors, and ardent readers; teachers, students, and historians; playwrights and poets through pivoted events including the following possibilities: 1.) Completely virtual festival requiring a new marketing plan and programming that stretches across months instead of days; 2.) Combination of in-person & virtual festivals with safety protocols implemented on site, plus online events for patrons who can't travel to New Orleans; 3) A fully in-person event that will likely be scaled down due to financial constraints.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

The Ella Project

\$5,500

To support pro bono legal and business assistance to low to moderate-income New Orleans artists, musicians, and grassroots non-profits arts organizations, including but not limited to copyright, trademark, contract creation and reviewing, licensing, incorporation, marketing assistance, and organizational planning; and art business development forums and workshops. Meetings, forums, and workshops will be conducted either in person or via ZOOM, depending on the state of COVID-19.

The NOLA Project

\$5,500

To support a professional ensemble theatre company that produces bold new and classic works of theatre in a variety of unique locations around New Orleans, including the New Orleans Museum of Art's Besthoff Sculpture Garden as well as the NOLA Educational Program working with theatre students aged 13 – 21. Programs may be pivoted to online and audio streaming due to COVID-19.

The Ogden Museum of Southern Art

\$15,000

To continue to bring engagement with Southern art and artists to local, state, and national community members through the Ogden Museum Online platform. Online offerings include virtual exhibition tours, youth, teen and adult live and downloadable art activities, live Museum meditations, downloadable lesson plans for educators, and virtual curator-led conversations. Funding from the Community Arts Grant will help the Ogden Museum continue to build out free online programming while also reintroducing in-person programming as city and state guidelines allow.

Upbeat Academy Foundation

\$2,500

To support free instruction in music production and performance to underserved middle and high school students using industry-preferred software with teaching artists who are professional producers, engineers, and musicians. Programs have moved online and funds will be used to pay our Teaching Artists for their planning time and virtual lessons, and to purchase the necessary software for our student-artists.

US Biennial (dba Prospect New Orleans)

\$15,000

To support Prospect New Orleans' educational programs and the development of Prospect.5 featuring New Orleans, national, and international artists at sites through the city. Educational programs will be held throughout the year culminating in Prospect.5 in October 2021 pivoted to online as needed or required.

2021 Community Arts Grants Narratives

CATEGORY: NEW ORLEANS AS CULTURAL CAPITAL

Whole Village Art Therapy, Inc.

\$2,500

To support a program of art therapy and artmaking experiences in both clinical and non-clinical settings throughout New Orleans to reduce systemic barriers to mental health, therapeutic arts, and art gatherings that build community and strengthen relationships that has seen an increase of clients since COVID-19. In 2021, work will continue in the community or virtually depending on the need at the time.

Young Aspirations/Young Artists Inc. (YA/YA)

\$5,500

To support YAYA's free and low-cost programs for youth of all ages that focus on visual arts training blended with leadership, life skills, and entrepreneurial training to help young people grow into successful adults including a free after-school program for youth ages 5-25, as well as weekend Family Arts Days, summer camp, monthly glass demonstrations and open houses, and fee-based classes in a range of disciplines. All programs for the next year are designed to be offered virtually, in-person, or as a hybrid.

Young Audiences of Louisiana

\$15,000

To support arts-education programs in all disciplines for children in school and after-school reaching 10,000+ students, as well as arts-integration professional development for educators virtually or in-person.