



JERSEY CITY  
**ARTS +**  
**CULTURE**  
TRUST FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT

— 2024—2025 —



Photo credit: James Smolesky | Program/Art Education Grant, HUDSON WEST FEST, Crys Matthews performing | [hudsonwesfest.org](http://hudsonwesfest.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- An Introduction to the Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust Fund ..... 1
- Funded Programming Locations Map ..... 4
- Panel Review, Evaluation and Granting ..... 5
- Arts for Everyone: Accessibility..... 5
- General Operating Grant: Overview ..... 6
- General Operating Grant: Distribution & Categories ..... 7
- General Operating Grant: Grantee Highlights ..... 8
- General Operating Grant: Direct Public Benefit..... 9
- General Operating Grant: Testimonials..... 10
- Program & Art Education Grant: Overview..... 11
- Program & Art Education Grant: Distribution & Categories ..... 12
- Program & Art Education Grant: Grantee Highlights..... 13
- Program & Art Education Grant: Direct Public Benefits ..... 15
- Program & Art Education Grant: Testimonials ..... 16
- Individual Artist Fellowship Grant: Overview ..... 17
- Individual Artist Fellowship Grant: Distribution and Categories..... 18
- Individual Artist Fellowship Grant: Grantee Highlights ..... 19
- Individual Artist Fellowship Grant: Direct Public Benefit ..... 20
- Special Thanks..... 21

# INTRODUCTION

In November 2020, Jersey City residents voted overwhelmingly to establish the Arts & Culture Trust Fund, creating the city's first dedicated public funding source to support and sustain the arts. This landmark decision created a stable and long-term investment in Jersey City's creative sector, generating roughly \$1 million per year in support of arts and cultural programming.

Each year, the City Council determines the collection rate for the Fund. The current rate is one-quarter of a penny (\$0.0025) per \$100 of assessed value, sustaining this reliable and consistent source of public funding.

The Arts & Culture Trust Fund strengthens Jersey City's creative economy by supporting a broad ecosystem of artists and cultural organizations. From emerging grassroots groups to well-established institutions, grantees use this support to build community, expand access to the arts, amplify cultural diversity, and enrich the city's overall quality of life.

Jersey City made history as the first municipality in New Jersey to implement a dedicated arts tax, establishing a statewide model for public investment in culture. This report presents the Fund's third round of grantmaking and highlights the ongoing impact of this historic commitment to the arts.

**“** The fact that we have allocated over \$3 million in less than three years speaks to the fact that the Arts and Culture Trust Fund we implemented in 2020 is working as intended, providing critical funding to support our talented artists and organizations who contribute so much to the vitality and diversity of our city,” said Mayor Fulop. “By investing in our vibrant arts community, we are significantly boosting the local economy and community engagement within Jersey City.”



– Mayor Steven M. Fulop,  
*City of Jersey City*



Photo credit: Thomas Horan  
General Operating Grant, THE KENNEDY DANCERS REPERTORY CENTER,  
*Summer Dance Experience Festival*  
[kennedydancers.org](http://kennedydancers.org)



Individual Artist Fellowship, NYUGEN SMITH @bundlehouse  
[nyugensmith.com](http://nyugensmith.com)



Photo credit: Cami Cicero  
Program/Art Education Grant, JERSEY CITY BALLET,  
*Peter and the Wolf: The Ballet*  
[jerseycityballet.org](http://jerseycityballet.org)

# INTRODUCTION *(continued)*

The Arts and Culture Trust Fund is overseen by the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee, a governing body made up of community representatives from every Ward of Jersey City. The Committee conducts open public meetings

that are accessible to all and currently held via Zoom. Meeting schedules and access details are posted with the City Clerk and on the Office of Cultural Affairs website at [jerseycityculture.org](http://jerseycityculture.org).



Every year we see how these grants open doors for transformative projects and lifelong learning opportunities,” said Christine Goodman, Director of Cultural Affairs. “Our artists inspire, challenge, and connect us. Investing in them is investing in the future of Jersey City.”

– **Christine Goodman**, *Director,*  
*Jersey City Office of Cultural Affairs*

## THE COMMITTEE

### 2024 Committee Members:

**Melida Rodas** (Ward A)

**Lisa Bellan-Boyer** (Ward B)

**Ann Marley** (Ward C)

**Sandra Martiny** (Ward D)

**Nobuki Takamen** (Ward E)

**Elizabeth Lorenzo-Phillips** (Ward F)

**Joe Harkins** (Mayor’s Representative)

**Mira Prinz-Arey** (Councilwoman, Non-Voting)

**Amy Elise de Jong**  
(JC Arts Council Representative, Non-Voting)

**Migdalia Pagan Milano**  
(Office of Cultural Affairs Representative,  
Non-Voting)

**Sarah Martinez**  
(JCACTF Administrator, Non-Voting)

## 2024–2025

# 98

Total Grants Awarded

# \$1,091,346

Distributed to Individual  
Artists, Arts Organizations and  
Arts-Focused Businesses

# 361,684

People Directly Impacted

# INTRODUCTION *(continued)*

## THE GRANTS

To ensure broad and equitable support for Jersey City's creative community, individual artists and organizations may apply for only one grant per cycle. The Arts and Culture Trust Fund offers three distinct grant categories, designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of applicants:

- **General Operating Grant**
- **Program and Arts Education Grant**
- **Individual Arts Fellowship Grant**  
(administered by the Jersey City Arts Council)



Photo credit: Zoltan Photography  
Program/Art Education Grant, KENIA ROSETE DANCE, *In the Fold*  
[keniadance.com](http://keniadance.com)



Photo credit: Hyeseon Hong  
Individual Artist Fellowship, HYESEON HONG, *Lincoln Park Live Music at the Fountain series featuring Hyeseon Hong Jazz Orchestra*  
[hyeseonhong.com](http://hyeseonhong.com)

During the 2024-2025 cycle, the Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust fund granted:

**\$442,750**

in General Operating Grants to 21 grantees

**\$493,647**

in Program and Arts Education Grants to 57 grantees

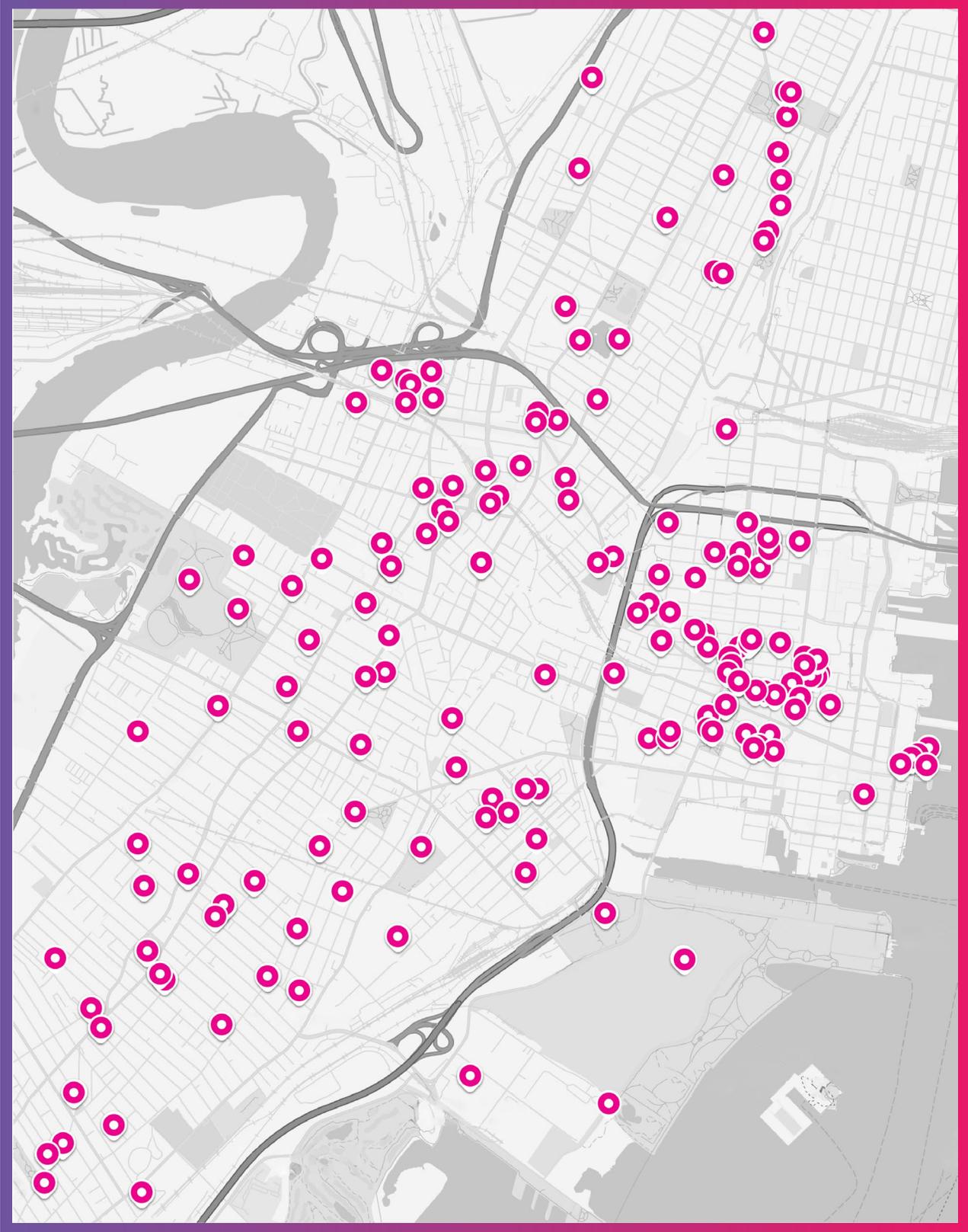
**\$100,000**

in Individual Artist Fellowship Grants to 20 Grantees



Photo credit: Jennifer Brown  
Program/Art Education Grant, BRIGHTER BEE ACADEMY, *Notes of Inclusivity*  
[brighterbeeacad.com](http://brighterbeeacad.com)

# 2024–2025 FUNDED PROGRAMMING LOCATIONS



# THE PROCESS

## APPLICATION

The Arts and Culture Trust Fund application opened to the public on January 29, 2024, with a submission deadline of March 4, 2024. Throughout the application period, the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee and the Jersey City Office of Cultural Affairs provided a comprehensive slate of resources to support applicants, including:

- **24/7 webinars** offering step-by-step guidance, accessible online at [jerseycityculture.org](http://jerseycityculture.org)
- **Open office hours** with real-time grant assistance from the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Jersey City Arts Council, available both virtually and in person
- **In-person training session in Ward A**
- **Accessibility-focused training sessions**
- **Training sessions with captioning and ASL interpretation**
- **Application materials available in seven languages**
- **Computer access at all Jersey City Free Public Library branches**, including extended computer time for applicants

## PANEL REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND GRANTING

All applications are reviewed and scored by an independent panel using a comprehensive set of evaluation criteria. Operating, Program, and Arts Education grant proposals are assessed based on the following:

- **Organizational and/or program budgets**, including available resources, fair and appropriate compensation for artists, and a clear plan to evaluate outcomes
- **Alignment with one or more priority areas**, including demonstrated artistic merit across the organization or within specific programs
- **A clearly defined Direct Public Benefit** for Jersey City residents at no cost, along with a plan for delivering that benefit within the grant period
- **A documented approach to increasing participation and access**, including strategies to identify and eliminate barriers so all residents are able to take part

Following the scoring process, the panel submits funding recommendations to the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee, which is responsible for making the final award decisions.

The Independent Artist Fellowship grant is administered separately by the Jersey City Arts Council, a community-focused nonprofit that has supported individual artists and arts organizations in Jersey City since 2016. This fellowship provides supplemental financial support to artists to advance their creative practice within the city, and like all Trust Fund grants, requires recipients to provide a Direct Public Benefit through their artistic work.

## ARTS FOR EVERYONE

Accessibility is a core component of the evaluation process. Each application is reviewed for a detailed Accessibility Plan, ensuring alignment with the Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust Fund's mission to expand equitable access to the arts across the city.

These plans serve as actionable roadmaps for reducing barriers so that all residents can participate fully. Applicants are encouraged to design programming that is accessible to the widest possible audience and to consider accessibility across all roles and experiences including artists, staff, leadership, and visitors.



Photo courtesy of In Full Color Program/Art Education Grant, IN FULL COLOR, 10th Anniversary Arts Festival @Barrow Mansion [instagram.com/infullcolors/](https://www.instagram.com/infullcolors/)



Photo credit: Sam Zegarra Program/Art Education Grant, RIVERVIEW FARMERS MARKET, Day of the Dead Educational Series [riverviewfarmersmarket.org](http://riverviewfarmersmarket.org)



Photo courtesy of Waye Small Press Program/Art Education Grant, WAYE SMALL PRESS, *By the WAYE* book launch [sure-things.com/wayesmallpress](http://sure-things.com/wayesmallpress)

# GENERAL OPERATING GRANT

The General Operating Grant provides support to organizations that deliver year-round arts and cultural programming within Jersey City. Recipients are afforded flexibility in the use of awarded funds, provided that expenditures advance the delivery of high-quality programming and strengthen community engagement across the city.



Photo Credit: Jennifer Brown  
General Operating Grant, RIVERVIEW JAZZ, *Latin Jazz Festival*  
[riverviewjazz.org](http://riverviewjazz.org)



Photo credit: Will O'Hare  
General Operating Grant, THE CURTAIN,  
William Shakespeare's *Macbeth by Candlelight*  
[thecurtain.org](http://thecurtain.org)

**\$442,750**

Total Distributed

**\$21,083**

Average General Operating  
Grant Award Size

**21**

Awardees

## TOTAL IMPACT

**179K**

People in Person

**272K**

Online

- Ariel Rivka Dance
- Art Fair 14C
- Art House Productions
- The Curtain
- Deep Space Gallery
- Educational Arts Team
- Golden Door Film Festival
- Jersey City Film Group / Sip Studios
- Jersey City Theatre Center
- Jersey City Writers
- The Kennedy Dancers
- Meenmoves
- Nimbus Dance Works
- Non Linear Knitting Studio
- Pro Arts Jersey City
- Riverview Jazz
- Smush Gallery
- Speranza Theatre Company
- Styles House Youth Community Center
- Surati for Performing Arts
- Victory Hall

# GENERAL OPERATING GRANT: DISTRIBUTION & CATEGORY OVERVIEW

Across Multiple Disciplines	29%	=====
Visual and Fine Arts	24%	=====
Dance	24%	=====
Arts and Culture Education	19%	=====
Theater & Performing Arts	14%	=====
Music	14%	=====
Folk Arts	10%	=====
Film	10%	=====
Digital Media and Video	10%	=====
Literature	5%	=====
Graphic Design	5%	=====
Crafts	5%	=====

# GENERAL OPERATING GRANT: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## JERSEY CITY THEATER CENTER (JCTC)

JCTC's mission is to spark conversations about the most pressing issues of our time through the arts. The organization produces and presents work that is both universal and rooted in the local community, with a strong focus on social justice and human rights. In 2024–2025, JCTC's programming included a production of the new play *Migrants*; the Voices International Theatre Festival and International Residencies Program; the Garden State New Play Festival, which supports new works by New Jersey–based playwrights; community storytelling events in partnership with the Jersey City Free Public Library; in-school artist residencies at PS 17 and Hudson County Schools of Technology; and the Global Music Series.



Photo credit: Richard Ryals  
General Operating Grant, JERSEY CITY THEATER CENTER,  
performance of *Migrants*



Photo credit: Jennifer Brown  
General Operating Grant, JERSEY CITY THEATER CENTER, *Migrants*  
[jctcenter.org](http://jctcenter.org)

## SURATI FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Surati for Performing Arts is an award-winning nonprofit that celebrates Indian culture through performances, classes, arts-in-education, community festivals and events. Surati's School and Center for Performing Arts in the Journal Square section of Jersey City conducts classes and workshops on various Indian dance and music forms including Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Tabla, and Hindustani vocals.

This year, Surati expanded its Arts in Education initiative, delivering comprehensive training in a variety of Indian dance forms and storytelling, including Creative Classical, Folk and Contemporary Bollywood.



Photo courtesy of Surati website  
General Operating Grant, SURATI FOR PERFORMING ARTS, *Glimpses of India*  
[suratifpa.org](http://suratifpa.org)

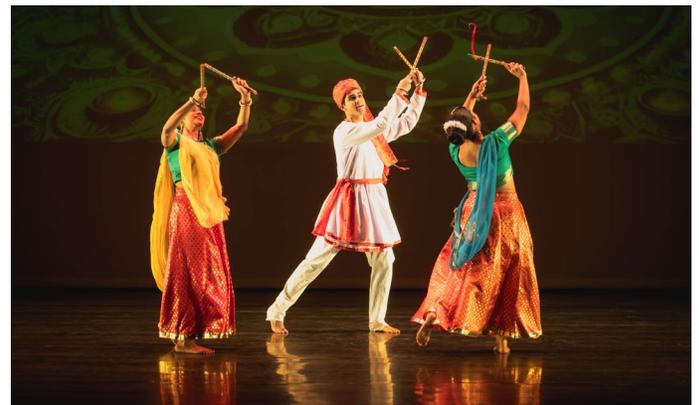


Photo courtesy of Surati website  
General Operating Grant, SURATI FOR PERFORMING ARTS, *Glimpses of India*  
[suratifpa.org](http://suratifpa.org)

# GENERAL OPERATING GRANT: DIRECT PUBLIC BENEFIT

## DRAWING ROOMS

Drawing Rooms is a contemporary art space and gallery in Jersey City, NJ, operated by the nonprofit Victory Hall Inc. The organization provides emerging and mid-career artists with a venue to present their work through exhibitions of two- and three-dimensional art.

With support from the Arts and Culture Trust Fund, Drawing Rooms delivered a community-engaged public art project led by artist Jill Scipione. Neighborhood residents met for crochet workshops at the Jersey City Free Public Library's Five Corners Branch and later at Canco Park, learning new skills and contributing individually crocheted pieces to a collaborative public artwork. More than 30 participants, many first-time crocheters, took part in the project. "Flowerball" installations were displayed at both the library and the park, fostering creativity, intergenerational connection, and community pride.



Photo credit: James Pustorino  
General Operating Grant, DRAWING ROOMS,  
*Community Crochet Project—Who Will Speak for the Trees?*  
[drawingrooms.org](http://drawingrooms.org)

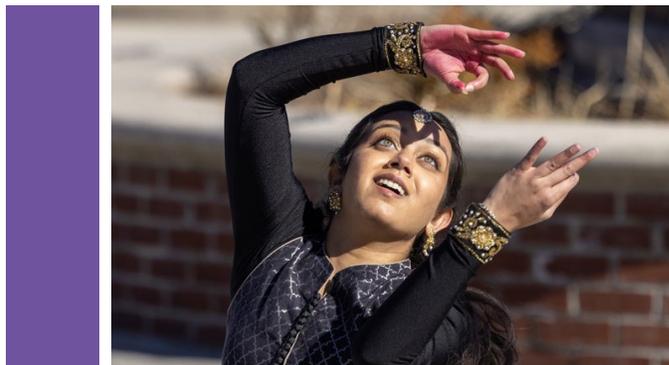


Photo Credit: Jennifer Brown  
General Operating Grant, MEENMOVES, *International Womens Day of Dance*

## MEENMOVES

MeenMoves creates socially relevant, quirky, and highly technical dance-theater works for stage and film. For International Women's Day of Dance, the company presented a free public performance with original music and live dancers at Riverview-Fisk Park in Jersey City's Heights neighborhood. In addition to the performance, MeenMoves offered a free dance workshop for residents in the park. The program was livestreamed, and the video was made available afterward on an accessible website.

In the lead-up to the performance, MeenMoves held open rehearsals in the park, allowing community members to observe and engage with the artists informally. These sessions provided an opportunity to introduce the art form to a broader and more diverse audience than a traditional performance setting would allow.

# GENERAL OPERATING GRANT: TESTIMONIALS

## DEEP SPACE GALLERY

“

This grant enabled us to include more of Jersey City’s residents in our programming. We were able to increase our virtual and on-site accessibility and we continued expansion of our ground floor (wheelchair-accessible) and our virtual programming.”



Photo credit: Jenna Geiger  
General Operating Grant, DEEP SPACE GALLERY  
[deepspacejc.com](http://deepspacejc.com)

## ARTS 14C

“

In 2025, we focused on expanding our incubator-style residency program, Project 14C, and are proud of its growth. Support from the Arts and Culture Trust Fund grant was essential to keep us operating during this time of transition. Project 14C now hosts 43 multidisciplinary residents and features a recording studio, textile room, writers’ room, and expansive, light-filled studios. This has enabled us to foster a truly special creative community in the heart of the Powerhouse Arts District.”



Photo credit: Jennifer Brown | General Operating Grant, ARTS 14C, Project 14C | [arts14c.org](http://arts14c.org)

# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT

The Program and Arts Education Grants provide support to organizations seeking funding for a specific program or initiative held in Jersey City. These grants may be used to develop a range of program types, provided that they enhance the organization's impact and promote broad access and participation for residents across Jersey City.

Amy Wilson	John T. Trigonis
Anti Violence Coalition	Joshua Lay Comedy
Area of Refuge	Kenia Dance
Aura Highsmith Creative	Laia Cabrera & Company
Black Sheep Contemporary Ensemble	McGinley Square Special Events Series
Bridge Art Gallery	Meagan Woods
Brighter Bee Academy	Monira Residencies Program
Cantantes in Cordibus	Music Matters
Church of St. Paul & Incarnation Music	New Jersey City University Arts
City Kidz Playhouse	Next Generation Foundation
Con Vivo Music	New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
CWS Jersey City Refugee Arts	North River Sing
Dancing Tony Productions	Open Gallery at Liberty Science Center
Farms in the Heights	Sabor Latin Music and Dance
Feminist Bird Club of JC	Segunda Quimbamba Folklore Center
Future Arts Leaders at Mana	Shehnazz Dance Academy
Give Chances	Society X
Groove on Grove	Saint Peter's University Arts
Half-Light Productions	The Barrow Mansion
Hudson County Community College Foundation	The Intertwine Festival
Hudson West Fest	The Statuary
In Full Color	Tong Yan Chinese School
Japanese Cultural League	V Productions
Jersey City Crafting Circle	VAMP
Jersey City Art School	Washington Park Association
Jersey City Ballet Theater	WBGO
Jersey City Night Market	Welcome Home JC
Jersey City P. A. L.	Whole Spectrum Sensory Arts
Jersey City Print Room	

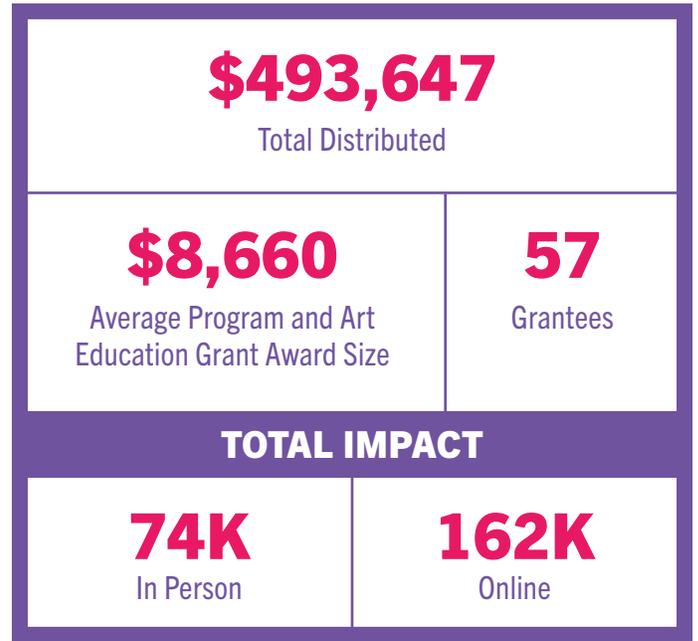
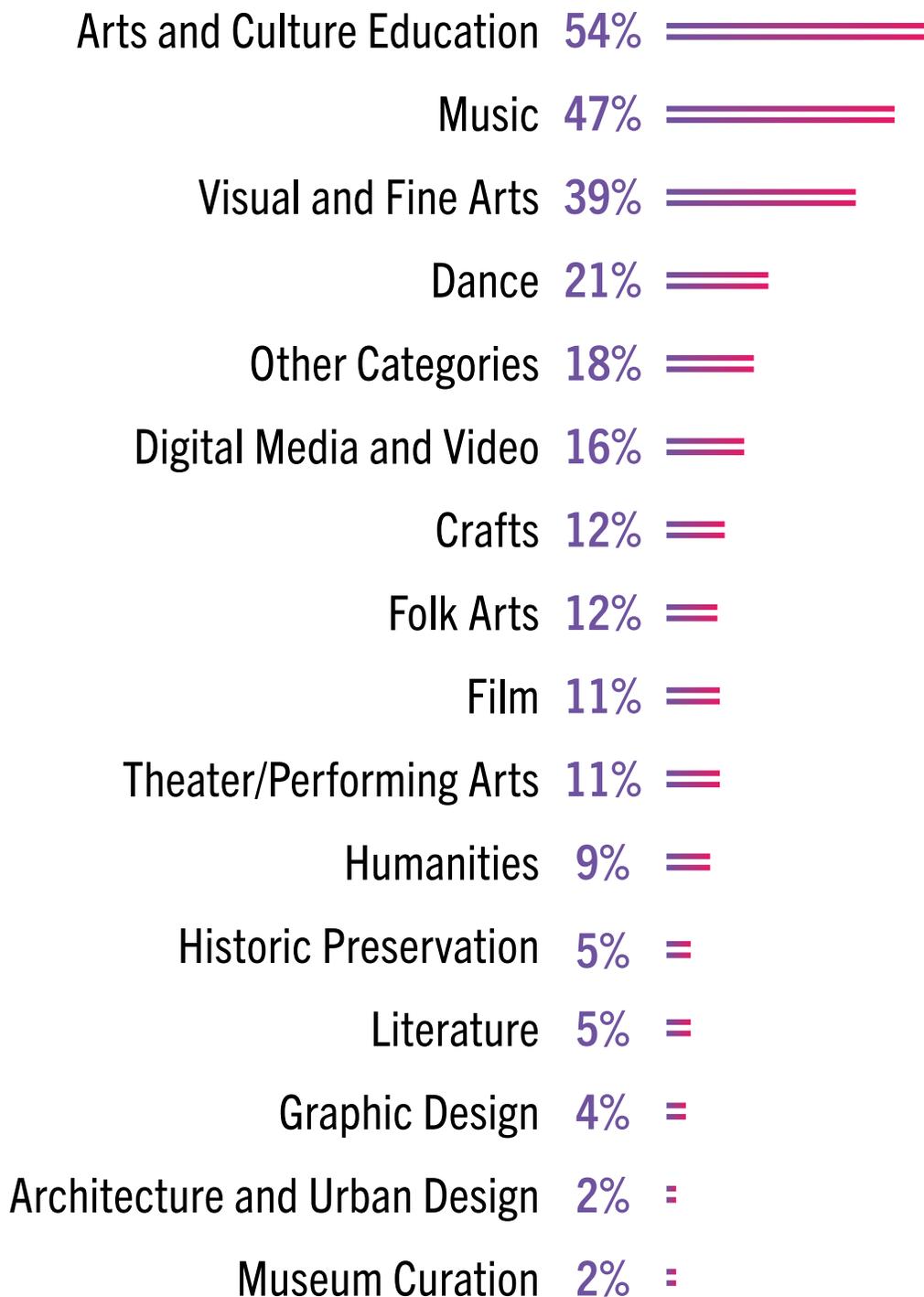


Photo credit: Joe Casia Photography  
Program/Art Education Grant, CITY KIDZ PLAYHOUSE, *Matilda*  
[citykidzplayhouse.com](http://citykidzplayhouse.com)



Photo courtesy of JC Print Room  
Program/ Art Education Grant, JC PRINT ROOM,  
*Hand-drawn animation workshop*  
[jcprintroom.com](http://jcprintroom.com)

# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT: DISTRIBUTION & CATEGORY OVERVIEW



# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## AREA OF REFUGE

Area of Refuge is a community-focused arts education program that empowered Jersey City residents—particularly in the Bergen-Lafayette and Greenville neighborhoods—to document their neighborhoods through photography and storytelling. The program included a full-day photography tour and three hands-on workshops: documentary photography, portraiture using natural light, and architectural photography, each held at accessible public sites. Participants were provided cameras and guidance from professional photographers and local historians.

“

This grant enabled us to transform a vision into a fully realized community program that combined education, storytelling, and artistic expression. It allowed us to provide high-quality instruction, offer all participants free access to resources (including single-use cameras), and document overlooked narratives in Jersey City through photography. Thanks to this grant, we were able to document the dignity, resilience, and beauty of underrepresented neighborhoods, and elevate local voices in a tangible and lasting way.”



Photo credit: Kolin Mendez  
Program/Art Education Grant, AREA OF REFUGE  
[theareaofrefuge.com](http://theareaofrefuge.com)

# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

## ZOMBIE OPERA

Undead Arts presents “Zombie Opera,” an annual concert in Jersey City that combines zombies, opera, and a rotating thematic twist. This free, outdoor performance features a mix of classical repertoire and theatrical humor. The 2024 edition, “Zombie Opera: It Came From Outer Space!”

included world-class, professional opera soloists, a 20-piece orchestra, dancers from Jersey City schools, Next Step Broadway, and Impress Ballroom, as well as a 40-member choir drawn from NJCU’s choral studies program and the North River Sing community choir.

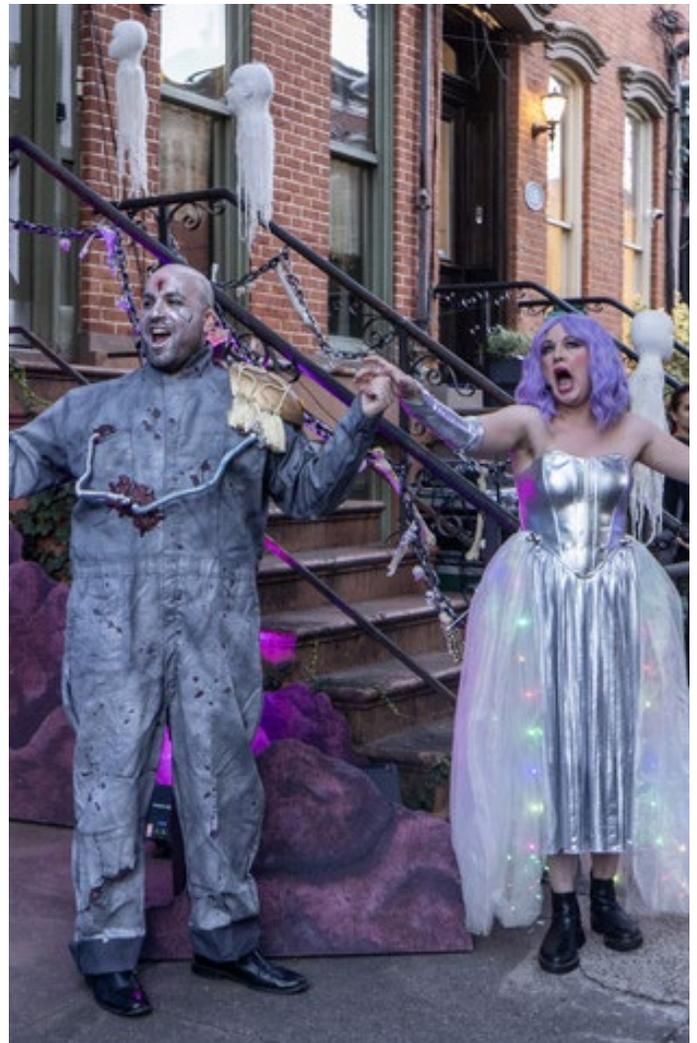


Photo credit: Jennifer Brown | Program/Art Education Grant, ZOMBIE OPERA, *It Came from Outer Space!* | [zombieopera.org](http://zombieopera.org)

# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT: DIRECT PUBLIC BENEFIT

## NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

New Jersey City University (NJCU) is home to a vibrant art program with state-of-the-art facilities, faculty, and staff. The Visual Arts Building features permanent artwork by Maya Lin and houses 10 studios and labs, including ceramics, printmaking, illustration, photography darkrooms, and design labs. NJCU sought to raise awareness of these resources and provide local residents with hands-on access through free weekend workshops of their choice.

A total of 65 Jersey City residents participated, learning new artistic processes and taking home completed creations. These workshops offered a meaningful opportunity for connection, reflection, and creative expression. All sessions filled within hours of their announcement, highlighting strong community interest.

Local artists led the workshops, gaining valuable teaching experience, fair compensation, and opportunities to expand their own artistic practices and deepen community connections.



Photo credit: Jennifer Brown  
Program/Art Education Grant, NJCU, *Community Arts Workshops*  
[njcu.edu](http://njcu.edu)

## JC CRAFTING CIRCLE

The JC Crafting Circle is a monthly meetup where local residents gather to work on a craft of their choice, regardless of skill level or background. Local makers and hobbyists bring personal projects and create in a friendly, welcoming space that encourages skill-sharing, creativity, and community connection.

The Crafting Circle also hosted a “free store” of arts and crafts supplies for the community. Working with local businesses and residents, they collected unwanted materials and made them available at no cost at Riverview-Fisk Park in Jersey City’s Heights neighborhood. Nothing went to waste: leftover supplies were donated to St. Joseph’s School for the Blind and the Educational Arts Team’s Camp Liberty program. The swap brought together regular participants and new community members alike, fostering volunteering, sharing, and discovery of the JC Crafting Circle.



Photo credit: JC Crafting  
Program/Art Education Grant, JC CRAFTING CIRCLE, *Block Printing and Crafting Circle*  
[jccraftingcircle.com](http://jccraftingcircle.com)

# PROGRAM AND ART EDUCATION GRANT: TESTIMONIALS

## SOCIETY X

“

Thanks to the grant, we were able to enhance our production quality, invest in better lighting and sound equipment, and secure high-caliber artists—ensuring a professional, high-energy experience for attendees that exceeded expectations.”



Photo credit: Daniel Krieger  
Program/Art Education Grant, SOCIETY X, *Summer Sounds*  
[summersounds.live](http://summersounds.live)

## TONGYAN SCHOOL

“

The support from the Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust Fund played a crucial role in making the (Chinese Art and Culture Fair) event a success. The grant allowed us to cover rental and logistical costs to ensure smooth operations; hire professional performers and artists; and purchase high-quality materials for craft stations and exhibitions.”



Photo credit: Hang Yu  
Program/Art Education Grant, TONGYAN SCHOOL,  
*Chinese Art and Culture Fair*  
[tongyantang.org](http://tongyantang.org)

# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT

The Individual Artist Fellowship Grant, administered by the Jersey City Arts Council, provides unrestricted funding to support Jersey City-based artists in sustaining and advancing their artistic practice. Applications are reviewed by a Fellowship Panel composed of artists and arts professionals from diverse backgrounds. Panel evaluations are based on artistic merit, community impact and engagement, and the extent to which the work provides a direct public benefit to Jersey City residents.

**\$100,000**

Total Distributed

**\$5,000**

Each Individual Artist Fellowship Grant Size

**20**

Grantees



The Individual Artist Fellowship Grant is administered by the Jersey City Arts Council.

Anthony Williams

Cheryl. R Riley

Christine Barney

Donald Gallagher

Elizabeth Deegan

Ernest Paniccioli

Gregg Rosen

Hyeseon Hong

Josué Morales Urbina

Laura Tatham

Laurie Riccadonna-Lewis

Leslie McIntosh

Michelle Vitale

Milcah Bassel

Nancy Cohen

Nyugen Smith

Ryan Roman

Samantha Geracht Myers

Sky Kim-Emerick

Veronica Mang



Photo courtesy of artist's website  
Individual Artist Fellowship, MILCAH BASSEL *Continua* 2024  
[milcahbassel.com](http://milcahbassel.com)

# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT: DISTRIBUTION & CATEGORY OVERVIEW

## GRANTEE ARTISTS TYPE

Visual Artists	10	=====
Performing Arts (Music & Dance)	3	===
Film & Digital Media	2	==
Literature	2	==
Crafts	2	==

**80%** of grantees used funds directly toward the creation of new works

**35%** of grantees used funds toward studio rentals

**30%** of grantees used funds towards purchasing materials or technology

**25%** of grantees used funds for event production

# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## SAMANTHA GERACHT

“

This grant gave me the rare time to focus on choreographing my own work. My new dance examined what it means to be benched, to take a knee and... Inspired by Talley Beatty's 'Mourner's Bench' as well as Leni Williams 'Sweet in the Morning' I worked closely with dancer Clarence Brooks to create a new solo that premiered at Sokolow Theatre in Jersey City Heights.”



Photo credit: Jaqlin Medlock  
Individual Artist Fellowship, SAMANTHA GERACHT,  
*Benched: Dances from the Silenced*  
[instagram.com/samanthageracht](https://www.instagram.com/samanthageracht)

## CHRISTINE BARNEY

“

The Fellowship grant allowed me to pursue ideas that I've considered for many years. The funds were used to experiment with Straphire, a super clear glass, combined with colored pigments added to ultra clear adhesive.”



Photo credit: Alexander Cubano  
Individual Artist Fellowship, CHRISTINE BARNEY, *Straphire*  
[christinebarney.com](http://christinebarney.com)

# INDIVIDUAL ARTIST FELLOWSHIP GRANT: DIRECT PUBLIC BENEFIT

## JOSUE MORALES URBINA

Artist Josue Morales Urbina created immersive art installations engaging environmental memory. “The grant significantly expanded my creative practice and public engagement. It enabled me to experiment with new materials and formats, resulting in a new body of work centered on transcultural identity and material memory. I gave artists talks and created a participatory installation that fostered dialogue and collaboration with diverse audiences connecting in a deeper level with my community.”



Photo courtesy of artist's website  
Individual Artist Fellowship, JOSUE MORALES URBINA  
[josuemoralesurbina.com](http://josuemoralesurbina.com)

## VERONICA MANG

Author and illustrator Veronica Mang hosted Mark-Making in the Park at Liberty State Park, using natural materials found on site. At the park's Nature Center, Mang led illustrated storytelling performances for children and families and guided participants in creating mark-making art with natural materials.



Photo courtesy of JC ARTS Council  
Individual Artist Fellowship, Veronica Mang, *Mark-Making in the Park*  
[veronicamang.com](http://veronicamang.com)

# GRATITUDE

## THANK YOU TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JERSEY CITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS FUND.

**Joyce E. Watterman** (Council President)

**Daniel Rivera** (Councilman at Large)

**Amy M. DeGise** (Councilwoman at Large)

**Denise Ridley** (Ward A Councilwoman)

**Mira Prinz Arey / Maureen Hulings** (Ward B Councilwoman)

**Richard Boggiano** (Ward C Councilman)

**Yousef J. Saleh** (Ward D Councilman)

**James Solomon** (Ward E Councilman)

**Frank E Gilmore** (Ward F Councilman)

## THANK YOU

Jersey City Free Public Library for providing extra computer time for grantees and the spaces to conduct training sessions.

David Andersson from Bloomberg Philanthropies for pro bono guidance and feedback.

Cultural Access Network and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance for Accessibility training for applicants.

The arts community of Jersey City for advocating for this Fund and participating in months of public meetings to bring vision to light.

City Photographer Jennifer Brown



Photo credit: Jennifer Brown | Operating Grant, ARIEL RIVKA DANCE | [arielrivkadance.com](http://arielrivkadance.com)

**City of Jersey City Office  
of Cultural Affairs**



**Christine Goodman** *(Director)*

**Migdalia Pagan-Milano** *(Assistant Director)*

**Sarah Martinez** *(Arts & Culture Trust Fund Administrator)*

Email: [culturalaffairs@jcnj.org](mailto:culturalaffairs@jcnj.org) | Phone: (201) 547-6921

Please visit [jerseycityculture.org](http://jerseycityculture.org) for additional resources, archived reports, and full staff directory.