DCLA Premier Grants, part of Staten Island Arts’ Regrants program, are public funds made available for art and cultural projects that constitute direct services to the residents of Staten Island. This is a competitive process. These grants are not fellowships, subsidies, or entitlements. Projects must be open to the public and take place during the calendar year 2023.

These grants are for first-time applicants making art or producing cultural programming on Staten Island. All art and artistic cultural disciplines are considered, including, music, dance, digital/new media, film/video/animation, folk arts, humanities and cultural studies, interdisciplinary events/festivals, literature, public art, theater, performing and visual arts. Arts Education programs offering arts exposure—-but not any type of instruction and curriculum-based programs taking place during classroom time—-at Staten Island public schools are eligible, as are programs taking place at senior centers.

Who is eligible? All individual applicants must be a Staten Island resident. For Staten Island-based collectives, the lead applicant must be a Staten Island resident. Nonprofit organizations must have a Staten Island location. Applicants may submit up to two applications for distinct projects in this category. Grant request range is $750 to $3,000. All first-time Staten Island Arts applicants are required to apply in this category.

- **Individuals**—Individuals with proof of current Staten Island residency and who have never received a grant from Staten Island Arts. Those who have previously applied but have not been funded may re-apply in the Premier category. Must have a valid Social Security number.
- **Collectives** – Must be Staten Island-based and have never received a grant from Staten Island Arts. Lead applicant must be a Staten Island resident with a valid Social Security number.
- **Organizations**—Must be Staten Island-based and have never received a grant from Staten Island Arts. Must have a valid Federal Tax ID. If an organization is unincorporated, an individual may apply on its behalf with a valid Social Security number.
Who or what is not eligible?

- Organizations receiving direct or discretionary funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in the 2023 fiscal year
- Organizations with operating income budgets over $100,000 for two of the last three fiscal years
- Programs that are essentially religious, recreational, rehabilitative, or therapeutic
- Universities, colleges, primary and secondary schools and districts, school affiliates or components, in-school activities or programs/activities that exclusively serve a student audience with no public component
- Any type of curriculum-based and instruction-based arts education programs taking place in K-12 classrooms
- Programs serving only the applicant organization’s members
- Operating expenses of privately-owned facilities (homes and studios)
- Deficit budgets, capital improvements, equipment purchases, fundraising events, scholarships, juror fees, prizes, lobbying expenses, entertainment, reception or food expenses, expenses for health, welfare, or other city/state funded programs/agencies, any non-arts related expenses or administrative costs unrelated to project
- Applicants who are not in good standing with SI Arts including failing to complete previous SI Arts grant projects and/or failure to provide project updates or complete final reporting

How to Apply

We provide our grant applications online and do not accept paper submissions. You will be required to use our online grant portal where we will ask you to fill out a profile. All first-time applicants are required to attend an application seminar. Applicants who have previously applied in the Premier category but did not receive funding are strongly encouraged to attend an application seminar as well. Please refer to the application seminar schedule (statenislandarts.org/grants). The grants administrator (718-447-3329 x 1003, gmimozo@statenislandarts.org) is available to answer questions about the application, to answer questions about eligibility, or provide other assistance. It is strongly suggested that all applicants discuss their proposals with the grants administrator before submitting applications. The grants administrator is available to review application drafts up to two weeks before the deadline date. Please note applications will not be considered without a work sample. Applicants apply for Premier directly (conduits are not necessary).

Selection Process

Consideration of proposals is competitive. Funding decisions are made by an outside panel of experts for each grant category. Panels are composed of representatives drawn from the disciplines eligible for funding. Panelists are professional artists, scholars, arts administrators, teachers of the arts and humanities, civic and business leaders, and community representatives. Based on the criteria (see below), the panelists vote on which projects are to be funded and recommend the monetary amount.
Criteria

1. Artistic merit and cultural significance.
2. Clearly stated objectives.
3. Clear and realistic plan for implementation.
4. Appropriate request level and realistic budget for stated proposal.
5. Need and impact on the artistic discipline, geographic area, or local population: projects which address communities or artistic disciplines which are under-represented or under-resourced will receive foremost consideration.
6. Demonstrated community interest or support for the project.
7. Applicant's experience and grant history. This includes consideration of qualified staff and artists.
8. Funding priorities: artist fees, marketing and publicity expenses, direct administrative expenses, supplies and materials.
9. The project should be accessible to any member of the community who wishes to partake in the experience. Venues should comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Virtual programs should provide captioning, subtitles, or ASL interpretation.

Notification

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by mail through a rolling process taking place during March-April 2023. Grant funding can be awarded to projects taking place January – December 2023.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by Tuesday January 31, 2023, 11:59pm
Work samples are required to be digitized and uploaded with the application.

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