

CONNECTICUT ARTS ENDOWMENT FUND

The Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund, administered by the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA), offers matching grants to eligible art organizations to help strengthen the state's nonprofit arts industry.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Application Deadline	By 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, December 15, 2013
Award Notification	March, 2014
Contract Return Deadline	April 1, 2014
Funding Period	April 15, 2014 - October 15, 2014
Final Report Due	Within 60 days of completion of the grant period

WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible Applicants

Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund applicant organizations must:

- Be incorporated in Connecticut as a not-for-profit for at least two years prior to the application date. Primary place of business and operations must be in Connecticut
- At time of application, have obtained tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Provide evidence that its **primary** legal purpose is to create, perform, present or otherwise promote visual, performing or literary arts in the state
- Have received a minimum of \$25,000 in private sector contributions (i.e., from corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals) for each of its two most recently completed fiscal years **as verified on Internal Revenue Service forms** (*see What & How We Fund*)

Ineligible Applicants

- Organizations whose primary purpose is not arts-based
- Organizations whose primary purpose is educational or instructional (e.g. schools)
- Organizations whose primary purpose is to receive contributions for, or provide funding to other organizations. Such organizations that are ineligible include, but are not limited to, all organizations determined to be tax-exempt under section 509 of the Internal Revenue Code.

WHAT & HOW WE FUND

The Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund (CAEF) was established by the Connecticut State Legislature to stimulate the development of private sector funding resources and to ensure the long-term stability of Connecticut's arts industry by providing funding to organizations (C.G.S. § 10-406-408). The Fund is managed by the Office of the State Treasurer. Interest earned on the Fund principal is distributed annually through COA to eligible organizations.

CAEF grants are "unrestricted," that is, organizations may apply funds toward programming, administrative or operational costs, capital projects, equipment purchase, or to build their own endowments. Applicants do not specify a grant request amount, or propose specifically how funds are to be spent.

**WHAT & HOW
WE FUND**
(CONTINUED)

Grant awards are calculated based solely on a formula which compares the amount of private sector (non-governmental) contributions an organization has raised in its two “most recent” fiscal years. The formula is designed to reward organizations that have experienced a substantial increase in the amount of private contributions during the more recent reporting year. The formula is outlined in (C.G.S. § 10-407).

Formula data is derived from the the organization’s two IRS Forms 990 submitted with the application. Government contributions (municipal, state and federal grants) received are **not** included as eligible amounts, nor is the value of most noncash contributions.

An organization’s share of the distributed interest earnings (grant amount) may vary from year to year, sometimes rather substantially. In 2013, 107 organizations shared \$620,700 in Endowment Fund earnings, with grant amounts ranging widely.

**APPLICATION
MATERIALS**

All applicants must submit:

- A completed and signed application
- Complete copies of the organization’s two most recently filed IRS Forms 990 (for clarification, see *What Constitutes an Acceptable Form 990*)

Important note for FY2014
Applicants are no longer required to submit a
Contributions Worksheet

First-time applicants to the Arts Endowment Fund must also submit:

- A copy of the organization’s Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) determination letter (tax-exempt certification)
- A certified copy of the organization’s Certificate of Incorporation as filed with the Connecticut Secretary of State’s Office. This document dates back to the organization’s establishment and should include language which defines the its purpose. It should not be confused with an organization’s by-laws.
- A brief narrative in support of the organization’s eligibility to receive proceeds from the Arts Endowment Fund (no more than one page).
- Additional materials that substantiate the organization’s primary legal purpose as arts focused, e.g, a comprehensive list of programs offered, a breakout of operating expenses related to arts-specific programming, etc. may also be included.

What Constitutes an Acceptable Form 990

State law mandates that applicants submit IRS Forms 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, to substantiate reported contributions on which grant calculations are based.

**APPLICATION
MATERIALS**
(CONTINUED)

These forms must be completed, signed and filed with the Internal Revenue Service by December 15, 2013 to be considered valid for application to the CAEF. Draft copies or unsigned forms will not be accepted. Be sure that signatures appear on **both** 990 Forms submitted. Electronically-submitted 990 forms are acceptable and are considered signed.

Form 990-PF, *Return of Private Foundation*, is **not** acceptable.

Returning applicants

CAEF awards are calculated based on a formula that compares contributions received in two different years. Organizations that apply in consecutive years must compare a “new” year and therefore provide a new Form 990 to substantiate contributions. For example, if an organization last submitted 990’s for “tax year” 2010 (year one) and tax year 2011 (year two), that organization should now submit 2011 and 2012 forms. If the organization received a filing extension from the IRS, their audit has not yet been completed, or for some other reason has not filed its 2012 form by December 15, it **cannot apply** to the CAEF this year because it is unable to produce a new “year two” form.

It is acceptable to submit tax returns for **organizational fiscal years ending ‘11 and ‘12, or fiscal years ending ‘12 and ‘13**. Tax returns will have the year 2011, 2012 or 2013 in the upper right corner.

**Important note for FY2014
Applicants are no longer required to submit a
Contributions Worksheet**

Applicants with questions regarding which forms to submit should contact Rhonda F. Olisky at 860-256-2752 or rhonda.olisky@ct.gov before submitting their application.

- **There will be no opportunity to amend the application if incorrect forms are submitted.**
- **Furthermore, extensions of time to apply will not be granted.**

Change of Fiscal Year

If an organization has recently changed its accounting period (fiscal year), its two most recent federal tax reporting years will be of differing length and not necessarily equal twelve months. This is acceptable as long as the minimum \$25,000 requirement is met for each reporting year as shown on the 990 Forms submitted.

**GRANTEE
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Please read the Connecticut Office of the Arts Grant Overview Guidelines available on the agency web-site. Note the following sections:

- Grantee Responsibilities
- Credit and Publicity Responsibilities
- Reporting requirements
- Grant cancellations

**REQUIRED
CERTIFICATION**

State law dictates that proceeds of the Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund be distributed annually by April 15, therefore requiring an expeditious process. Once notified of awards, grantees will have approximately **one month to return a signed grant contract and required Certification of Authorized Official** (a.k.a. Certified Resolution) in order to receive funds.

A Certification of Authorized Official (a.k.a. Certified Resolution) is a document, signed by the board secretary, that certifies that the recipient organization has passed a resolution authorizing a certain individual to sign contracts with the State of Connecticut, and that the resolution is *still in effect*. The board need not meet to pass a new resolution unless the authorized official has changed. A new certification with a current date, however, must be provided with every grant contract returned to DECD.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted via COA's e-granting portal, <https://coa.fluidreview.com>, **by 11:59 p.m. on December 15, 2013.**