



# STAMFORD

## Arts & Culture Grant

Office of Economic Development



**CITY OF  
STAMFORD**  
*innovating since 1641*



# Background Information

- For over 25 years, the City of Stamford has generously pledged grant dollars to the cultural institutions in Stamford through the Community Arts Partnership Program (CAPP) Grant.
- After the Office of Economic Development & the Arts & Culture Commission took over the CAPP Grant in 2017, it was renamed the Stamford Arts & Culture (SAC) Grant.
- Since then, numerous enhancements were made to the grant:
  - Having an application in Spanish and allowing for Spanish submissions
  - Increasing the eligibility by allowing fiduciary agents to apply for small groups and artists
  - Streamlining the application process for greater access
  - Having a transparent review process that includes 10 arts and cultural professionals
  - Actively promoting the grant to further expand the number of applicants, including thru press releases, e-blasts, social media, website postings, and in newspapers
  - Expanding the criteria to include cultural programming, in addition to artistic programming
- New organizations have formed or began arts programming thanks to the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant
  - Stamford Pride, Black Lives Matter Stamford, Editorial Letramia, Stamford Murals, Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Ecuadorian Civic Committee



# 2022 Program Overview

- SAC Grant 2022 received 20 applicants, the largest number in recent years
  - 40% increase since economic development started managing the program
- The most diverse applicant pool ever
  - 7 brand new applicants
  - 6 Latino & Hispanic cultural programs
  - 2 Black & African American history-oriented programs
  - 1 LGBTQ+ program
  - 1 Jewish historic program
- 90% of programs are free to the public including
  - Ballet Under the Stars – Connecticut Ballet
  - Drag Performances – Stamford Pride
  - Holiday Brass & Organ Concert – First Presbyterian Church
  - Dia de los Muertos Celebration – Latino Foundation of Stamford
- Average grant amount was \$5,400
  - Largest grant amount was \$7,500
  - Smallest grant amount was \$2,000

# Proposed Changes 2022/23

- During his administration, Mayor David Martin tasked me with overseeing the Community Youth Music Program Grant.
  - Youth Music Grant is a very specific grant that only has 3 eligible applicants every year
  - The 3 applicants split \$83,500 from the Youth Music Grant
- By comparison, 20 applicants split \$108,000 in this past year's Stamford Arts & Culture (SAC) grant.
- The SAC Grant allows for greater equity and promotes diversity
  - Funds all types of artistic and cultural programming, not just youth focused music programs
  - Artistic: Visual, Music, Dance, Theatre, Literature, Film, New Media
  - Cultural: Latino & Hispanic, Black & African American, LGBTQ+, and others
- The SAC Grant is a well-established program with a thorough, transparent, and fair review process by the 9 members of the Arts & Culture Commission
  - Commission members are professionals in the artistic and cultural sector







# Proposed Changes 2022/23

- After careful review and consultation with Mayor Simmons' office, it was decided to fold the Youth Music Grant into the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant.
  - All previous applicants of the Youth Music Grant are eligible for funding through the Stamford Arts & Culture Grant and will be notified of this change.
- The SAC Grant funding request is \$191,500. This is not an increase in funding, but a merging of the two separate account lines.
  - Last year's SAC Grant was \$108,000. (Line 01460568919)
  - Last year's Youth Music Grant was \$83,500. (Line 01460568928)
  - Quick math:  $\$108,000 + \$83,500 = \$191,500$
- Thank you for your hard work and for continuing to fund Stamford-based artistic and cultural programming.
- For full details about the SAC Grant visit: [StamfordCT.gov/SACgrant](https://StamfordCT.gov/SACgrant)
- For further questions email John Varamo: [JVaramo@stamfordct.gov](mailto:JVaramo@stamfordct.gov)