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RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
Institutional Support

Through this program, the State Arts Council funds a portion of the operating expenses of Rhode Island producing and exhibiting arts institutions. In this way, the state supports its artistic organizations which exist primarily for public audiences and which contribute to the livelihood of participating artists and arts professionals. The program also stimulates matching financial support of these organizations by the private sector.

Criteria used in making the awards include: quality of cultural experience and maintenance of high artistic standards; previous sound financial planning; extent of community impact; degree of community support; and demonstrated need for support. Recommendations are made by a committee of three professional arts administrators and artists from out-of-state and three members of the State Arts Council. Final award decisions come from the Council at its June meeting. The application deadline is March 31.

To be eligible, an organization must be non-profit, Rhode Island-based, with professional management involved in a substantial program of public exhibition or performance for a minimum of three years. Because support of the arts is a partnership effort, no organization is awarded more than the amount of unearned income it has raised from the private sector for operating expenses in the preceding year.

Organizations funded through this program have included: Trinity Square Repertory Company; Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art; Rhode Island Philharmonic; Artists Internationale; Looking Glass Theater; Rhode Island Historical Society; Puppet Workshop; Art Association of Newport; Rhode Island Black Heritage Society; Westerly Center for the Arts; Rites and Reason; and Newport Music Festival.

Project Support

The Council assists arts organizations in the development and continuation of projects benefiting the Rhode Island public through three types of Project Support grants. New Project grants allow recipients to develop special projects outside the scope of their regular activities, while Ongoing Project grants assist organizations not eligible for Institutional Support in maintaining their regular activities. Ongoing Project grants may also be used for salary support, limited to two years, or for technical assistance. Community Development grants help organizations that wish to offer arts or folk activities for the first time; are less than a year old; or are applying to the Council for the first time.

Project Support grants are awarded in the following areas: dance; music; folk arts; literature; theater; media; visual arts/architecture; arts service organizations; community development; and multi-discipline.

To be eligible for these matching-fund grants, organizations must be Rhode Island-based, incorporated, non-profit and tax-exempt. Through Project Support, the Council stimulates the growth of such organizations in new directions and encourages the richness and variety of the arts in our state. Application deadlines are March 1 and September 1 for all types of grants, with Community Development grants having additional deadlines of June 1 and December 1.
Governor's Message

In establishing the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts over a decade ago, state government took a major step in fostering Rhode Island's rich and varied cultural heritage; at the same time, it expressed its commitment to providing all citizens with the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the arts.

Today, the State Arts Council plays an important role in the state's cultural life. Through its many programs, the Council acts as a state-wide resource to artists and arts organizations, as well as students, seniors, handicapped and the general public. Overseeing its budget and programs is a 12 member board appointed by the governor which represents the wide range of Rhode Islanders who enjoy and support the arts.

Rhode Island's healthy artistic climate benefits not only the present quality of life in the state, but is also an important factor in the state's future development. The arts employ many people in Rhode Island and are a vital element in attracting tourists and new businesses to the state.

Thus, state government's commitment to the State Arts Council reflects the firm belief that the arts are, and will continue to be, an essential element in the lives of Rhode Islanders.

J. Joseph Garrahy
Governor

Statement of Purpose

Since its legislative birth in 1967, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts has worked to improve the quality of the arts, to insure their continued growth, and to assist the artists and arts organizations whose combined labors constitute the state's arts industry.

By law, our agency is charged with encouraging "the study and presentation of the performing, visual and environmental arts and public interest and participation therein." Basically, we pursue this legislative mandate in two ways: one, about half of the Council's budget, made up of both state and federal funds, is distributed in grants to artists and arts organizations; and two, we develop and operate programs that directly touch the lives of Rhode Islanders through their schools, senior centers, hospitals, community arts councils and cultural centers.

The goal of the 12-member Council and its staff is to insure that all Rhode Islanders will have an opportunity to make the arts a part of their lives. To achieve this goal, the Council inaugurated a Five Year Plan in February, 1979. The plan calls for an increase in the effectiveness and scale of services to arts organizations and educational institutions, as well as to the state's artists and craftpersons.

It also promises an integrated consumer service system to make arts, crafts and other cultural programs more available to the general public at the local level. Additionally, it includes the continued development of community and neighborhood-based arts organizations.

We are proud of what the State Arts Council has accomplished, and optimistic about its future.

Donald J. Aldrich
Chairman
Artists In Education

The Artists in Education Program is an educational resource for all Rhode Island schools. Through it, professional artists and educators plan and implement projects integrating the arts into the general curriculum with the philosophy that the artists' specialized skills and trained perceptions provide unique learning experiences and supplement existing courses. At the center of the program are the artists-in-residence who conduct the majority of its projects. They represent the disciplines of writing, visual art, music/composition, and photography. In addition, state and national dance companies are placed in educational settings through the program’s Dance Component. The artists-in-residence act as resources for career education, special education, programs for the gifted and talented, as well as regular academic subjects. They also serve as both actual and symbolic representatives of the larger artist community, with one-quarter of their working time allotted for pursuit of their own work.

In 1978-79, the artists-in-residence and some 30 artist-specialists worked directly with about 6,000 students and teachers in over 40 projects throughout the state which integrated the arts into the educational process. For example, the Council's composer-in-residence conducted residencies in Coventry and North Scituate middle schools, while the visual artist-in-residence helped students in several Warwick schools create large, permanent murals. A professional dance company spent two weeks in the Cumberland and Lincoln school systems and several South County schools hosted writing and poetry residencies.

Special Constituencies

The two components of the Special Constituencies Program, Arts and the Aging, and Arts for the Handicapped, place professional artists in senior centers, nursing homes, hospitals, social service agencies, and community centers throughout the state. These artists conduct residencies of varying duration in all arts disciplines including movement, music, drama, storytelling, crafts, writing and the visual arts.

The emphasis of the program is on arts activities that strengthen the participants’ confidence in their own creativity. Each professional artist assists the participants in understanding the tools of a particular arts medium and supports their involvement in the creative process in an atmosphere of success.

The Special Constituencies Program has a training component designed to familiarize site staff with the artist’s approach to the population and to help site staff realize their own creative potential. Through this training, staff become sensitive to the importance and value of arts activities at their sites. The Council pays up to 50 percent of the cost of hiring artists with certain sites eligible for up to 100 percent funding.

Technical Assistance

The Development Program provides general assistance and direction to arts and community-based organizations in such areas as program development, basic management and long-range planning. In this capacity, the program also assists arts organizations wishing to apply for funds through the Consultant Funding Program and offers guidance to organizations and artists applying for State Arts Council grants.

The Technical Assistance component of the program offers workshops and seminars on subjects of interest to cultural organizations, artists and community-based agencies. Topics include those relating to general organization management and planning, as well as more specific issues such as the effects of changes in federal copyright and tax laws. Technical assistance is also offered through the Council’s Artists In Education, Special Constituencies and Touring Programs.

In addition, the Development Program is responsible for analyzing and documenting current trends in the state’s cultural community and responding to these by researching and developing new methods of meeting changing needs.
Grants-In-Aid To Individual Artists

To assist professional, Rhode Island artists in pursuing their own creative directions, the State Arts Council annually awards Grants-In-Aid in the following categories: literature (poetry, fiction, drama); two-dimensional art (painting, graphics); crafts (ceramics, weaving, etc.); music composition; three-dimensional sculpture; choreography (dance, mime); film/video; and still photography. The awards carry stipends of up to $3,000. Recommendations are made by Council advisory panels in each discipline, based on the quality of the applicant’s previous work, to provide materials and/or time for creative work, for new projects, or generally to advance the artist’s career. Final selections are made by out-of-state judges in each area. The application deadline is May 1.

Ticket Endowment

By subsidizing the cost of tickets, the Ticket Endowment Program makes arts performances more accessible to certain groups of Rhode Islanders and helps develop audiences for the arts. Producing organizations may apply for Ticket Endowment to cover an event, with eligible groups of students, seniors, enlisted servicemen and disadvantaged purchasing tickets at half-price for specific performances. In fiscal year 1979, over 12,500 Rhode Islanders benefited from the program.

Governor’s Arts Award

This award is given annually in the governor’s name by the State Arts Council and recognizes the artistic achievement or contribution to the arts of a Rhode Island individual or organization.

Touring

The Council administers programs of the New England Foundation for the Arts, the regional programming arm of the six New England state arts agencies, which makes performing arts attractions of high professional standards available throughout the region. Financial assistance is offered to local sponsors for performances by music, theater, dance, puppetry and mime companies. Any non-profit organization in Rhode Island is an eligible sponsor and may apply for up to one-third funding for groups listed in the Foundation’s annual roster. The Rhode Island Touring Program Supplement lists additional in-state groups whose fees also may be partially funded.

The Minorities and Special Constituencies Program of the Foundation funds sponsors targeting audiences isolated from the mainstream of arts activities due to age, economic or racial background, as well as physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. The fees of out-of-state performing groups from the Foundation roster may be funded up to 50 percent through this program.

The Foundation’s Dance Touring Program makes available professional dance performances through residencies, with virtually every dance form and style, including mime, represented by companies across the country ranging from soloists to groups of more than 80 dancers.

Low-cost, quality exhibitions of two and three-dimensional art, and crafts from New England resources are offered to schools, libraries, galleries and museums through the Visual Arts Touring Program. The program also provides exhibition opportunities for New England artists, and financial aid to organizations preparing exhibitions for travel.
For further information on the programs described in this brochure, contact the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts at the address below.

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