



greater hartford
arts council



For Immediate Release
June 26, 2009

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CITY OF HARTFORD & GREATER HARTFORD ARTS COUNCIL AWARD \$1+ MILLION IN HARTFORD ARTS & HERITAGE JOBS GRANTS

Hartford, CT — More than \$1 million is on its way to 23 Hartford-based artists, arts organizations and community groups through the new Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant Program. Proposed by Mayor Eddie Perez, funded by the City of Hartford and administered by the Greater Hartford Arts Council, the program was created to build upon the Capital City's renowned Arts Mecca by generating jobs across a wide variety of sectors through funding for arts and heritage projects in the city.

Fifty-seven nonprofit organizations and artists applied for funding through the program, requesting a total of more than \$5 million from the grant pool of just over \$1 million. About 40 percent of the proposed projects — 23 in all — ultimately were selected to receive Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grants. The size of the grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000, with projects being funded at between 50 percent and 100 percent of the amount requested.

"The purpose of these grants is to generate jobs in the City of Hartford," said Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez. "These grants support jobs for construction workers, electricians, painters, seamstresses, food vendors, technicians, teachers, and of course our talented artists."

A 10-member Grant Review Panel made the award decisions, judging each application based primarily on the direct and indirect economic impact of the proposed projects, as well as factors such as community impact, project excellence, fiscal soundness, quality of planning and how results would be measured. Projects which committed to hiring Hartford residents and using Hartford-based businesses were given priority.

Projects were funded in all three of the eligible categories: new or expanded works (17 projects), facilities building or improvements (2 projects) and youth employment (4 projects). Grantees range from individual artists to small neighborhood groups to the city's largest and best-known arts institutions. Their work spans a broad spectrum, from making critical repairs at a local theater and converting apartments into artist studios to creating a new music series and providing performance classes to hundreds of school children. For some, the economic impact will take the form of directly hiring new employees or contractors, including the city's teenagers. For others, the impact will be seen primarily in the audience members drawn from outside the city, who then spend money at area restaurants, parking lots and businesses.

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“It was exciting to see the range and quality of the projects proposed, and difficult to choose among them,” said David Panagore, Director of Development Services and the City’s Acting Chief Operating Officer, who chaired the Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant Review Panel. “Our goal was to strike a balance between funding as many good projects as possible and making sure each grant amount was enough for that project to succeed. While a challenge, it was a great panel and working together I think we accomplished our goal.”

Each of the panelists read more than 1,500 pages of applications, and spent more than 15 hours together over four days discussing the merits of each application and making grant decisions. Half of the panel was appointed by the City of Hartford, and half by the Greater Hartford Arts Council.

“This is a real public-private partnership, bringing together the creativity and good work of the City, area artists, nonprofit groups and businesses to create jobs and spur Hartford’s economy,” said Greater Hartford Arts Council Chief Executive Officer Kate Bolduc. “Over the next year as funded projects are carried out, we will be carefully monitoring them to be sure they’re meeting their targets and maximizing their economic impact, as well as producing great art.”

The Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grant Program was designed to quickly stimulate the local economy; most of the funded projects begin in the next two to three months, and must be complete by June 2010.

As a second phase of the program, the City has applied to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to use \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant Recovery money to create another grant pool. If approved, it is expected that these funds would target micro-enterprise arts organizations with fewer than five employees. The City and Greater Hartford Arts Council hope to have this Phase 2 program begin in late summer or early fall.

The Grant Review Panel for this first phase was comprised of City representatives Luis Cotto, Miguel Matos, David Panagore, Jose Rodriguez and rJo Winch, and Arts Council representatives Christopher Cloud, Cindy Cudworth, Venton Forbes, Jason Gutcheon and Jill Hutensky.

The list of projects funded is on the next page. For a list of project descriptions and a map of project locations, see www.LetsGoArts.org/HartfordArtsJobs.

The Greater Hartford Arts Council is a leader and catalyst for the promotion, fundraising and coordination of arts and heritage programs that help celebrate our diverse cultures, enliven the spirit, and enrich the economy of Connecticut’s Capital Region. It has raised and invested more than \$54 million for the arts over 37 years, helping to rank Greater Hartford in the top 6 percent of metropolitan areas in North America for its arts and culture. More information about the Greater Hartford Arts Council may be found at www.LetsGoArts.org.

Hartford Arts & Heritage Jobs Grants Awarded

Applicant	Project	Project Type	Grant Award
Artists Collective	Jackie McLean International Arts Festival & Jazz Series	New/Expanded Works	\$ 61,065
Asylum Hill Congregational Church	Asylum Hill Concert Series	New/Expanded Works	\$ 10,000
Billings Forge Community Works	The Galleries at Billings Forge	New/Expanded Works	\$ 54,150
Charter Oak Cultural Center	Youth Arts Institute	New/Expanded Works	\$ 100,000
CONCORA (Connecticut Choral Artists)	CONCORA Cabaret Series	New/Expanded Works	\$ 17,550
Connecticut Guitar Society	2009 Guitar Under the Stars	New/Expanded Works	\$ 14,900
Anne Cubberly	Make That Trashy Puppet Dance!	New/Expanded Works	\$ 10,000
Cultural Dance Troupe of the West Indies	Cultural Spectacular	New/Expanded Works	\$ 10,000
Family Day Enterprises	24th Annual Keney Park Family Day	New/Expanded Works	\$ 10,000
Adrienne Gale	Hartford Prints!	Youth Employment	\$ 75,000
Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz	2009 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz	New/Expanded Works	\$ 32,500
Guakía	Ritmo, Salsa y Latin Jazz	New/Expanded Works	\$ 32,500
HartBeat Ensemble	Free Theater in the Neighborhoods	New/Expanded Works	\$ 60,000
Hartford Business Improvement District	Awesomest Arts Thingy Ever	New/Expanded Works	\$ 39,000
Hartford Children's Theatre	Carriage House Restoration	Facilities	\$ 65,000
Hartford City Ballet	Integrated Performing Arts After-School Programming	Youth Employment	\$ 30,000
Hartford Public Access Television	Youth-Arts-Work	Youth Employment	\$ 30,000
Institute for Community Research	Folk & Traditional Artists Marketing Co-op	New/Expanded Works	\$ 35,000
Judy Dworin Performance Project	Moving Matters!	New/Expanded Works	\$ 16,380
Our Piece of the Pie in partnership with Hartford Stage	Acting Out	Youth Employment	\$ 100,000
Riverfront Recapture	Signage System	Facilities	\$ 100,000
Sankofa Kuumba Cultural Arts Consortium	Sankofa Journey of Emancipation	New/Expanded Works	\$ 16,250
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art	Rembrandt to Wyeth	New/Expanded Works	\$ 100,000