



INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR  
**ARTS EDUCATION  
FOR SYSTEMS CHANGE**  
GRANT OPPORTUNITY

# Agenda



Welcome and Opening Remarks

Fairfield County's Community Foundation



Overview of the RFP

Fairfield County's Community Foundation



Q&A



Next Steps and Closing

# KEY GRANTS AND PROGRAM STAFF



Lutonya Russell-Humes  
VP Grants and Programs



Liz Hoagland  
Director, Education and  
Workforce Development



Alli Ganim  
Senior Program Associate

# Setting the Stage for Arts Education RFP

Since 2018, FCCF has focused its arts funding on Arts Education programming. Now, with some additional funds set aside, we are able to effectively mobilize and deploy these funds where they're needed most with a one-time grant opportunity investing in arts education that amplifies community voice, advances equity, and transforms lives across Fairfield County.

# What We're Looking to Fund

Competitive proposals will clearly demonstrate two core priorities:

Priority 1 — Integration

Increasing the integration of arts education programs or projects among local, cross-sector partners in Fairfield County.

Priority 2 — Influence

Influencing educational outcomes alongside broader economic, physical, and social change for communities that have been historically underserved.

# Illustrative Program Examples

These are high-level examples — not requirements. They illustrate the kind of collaborative, community-rooted work this opportunity is designed to support.

## Arts in Schools

A collaboration between nonprofit arts education organizations, local government, and the school system to integrate arts into K–12 settings — improving student engagement and educational outcomes.

Our primary concern is that the project is actionable, collaborative, and serves the communities for which it is designed.

## College Access Through Portfolio

A partnership between an arts education organization and a college-access organization to support students with portfolio development for college admissions.

# Funding Details

## \$200K

**Total Fund**

One-time allocation across  
select grantees

## ~\$50K

**Average Award**

Intended award amount per  
grantee

## 4

**Est. Grantees**

A few select  
organizations funded

Grantees must be 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofits based in and serving Fairfield County. Organizations operating under a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status may also be considered. Strong candidates will demonstrate collective impact strategies and clear work addressing inequities — particularly historically marginalized, and/or low-to-moderate income communities.

## Key Dates

**April 8, 2026**

Informational Webinar

**April 9, 2026**

Application Opens

**May 1, 2026**

Application Deadline by **5PM**

**May 1–12, 2026**

Application Review

**Late May 2026**

Award Decisions Announced

## Eligibility at a Glance

### We Will Consider

Organizations that are

- 501(c)(3) nonprofits in Fairfield County or fiscally sponsor by a 501(c)(3) organization that are
- Arts education-focused or Non-traditional arts orgs with a defined core arts education program
- All budget sizes — grassroots-led organizations given preference
- Collaborative applications are strongly encouraged

### We Will Not Consider

- Organizations with a current open grant at FCCF
- Religious proselytizing
- Political causes or organizations
- Capital campaigns, deficit financing, or endowments
- Fundraising events or annual appeals
- For-profit, parochial, charter, or private schools
- Requests benefiting a specific individual
- Scholarship Programs

# Application Questions Overview

Your application will be evaluated on organizational strength, program design, partnership, and equity. Here's what to prepare:

**01**

## Organizational Overview

Mission, leadership demographics, current budget, community served, and value brought to Fairfield County.

**03**

## Program Design & Goals

Goals, objectives, primary beneficiaries, and how the project addresses education outcomes through an arts lens — with clear links to systems change and racial equity.

**02**

## Partnerships & Collaboration

List all partners and attach evidence (MOUs required for critical partners; letters of support from community and municipal partners encouraged).

**04**

## Sustainability & Budget

How the project continues after funding ends, plus a full budget with all committed or pending funding sources attached.

- 📄 An optional open-response question invites you to reflect on why this opportunity is the right fit for your project and the impact FCCF's investment will have on Fairfield County residents.

# Ready to Apply?

We believe in your work. This is your opportunity to shape the future of arts education in Fairfield County — and we're here to support you through the process.

## Apply by May 1

Applications close at 5:00 PM. Be creative, be bold, and let your community's voice lead.

## Contact FCCF

Reach out with any questions to Liz Hoagland [lhoagland@fccfoundation.org](mailto:lhoagland@fccfoundation.org) or Alli Ganim [aganim@fccfoundation.org](mailto:aganim@fccfoundation.org)

## FAQs

**Q: If I have an open grant-can I apply?**

**A:**No. If you currently have an open grant with FCCF you are not eligible.

**Q: If I am awarded this opportunity, can I also apply for the Fall 2026 cycle (LOI opens July 2026)?**

**A:** No. Organizations awarded this arts education RFP are not eligible to apply for additional FCCF funding through the Fall 2026 competitive cycle. Eligibility resumes once the grant term is complete.

**Q:What is target age range?**

**A:** Continues to be 14-25 age range that FCCF targets.

## **Additional Webinar Questions (Answered Live):**

**Q: If we are not headquartered or based in Fairfield County, are we still eligible to apply?**

**A:** Yes. Organizations are eligible if they offer programs or operations that take place in - or have a direct impact across - Fairfield County.

**Q: Does arts education include performing arts, or only fine arts?**

**A:** All arts programming and organizations may be considered, provided you can demonstrate a clear connection to educational outcomes.

**Q: If we serve younger children, will that disqualify us?**

**A:** No. While FCCF's target age range is 14–25, applicants can serve younger populations, as long as they serve 14-25 as part of this opportunity.

## **Additional Webinar Questions (Answered Live):**

**Q: What is the grant term?**

**A:** One year from the date of fund disbursement. Funds will be distributed prior to June 30, 2026.

**Q: Can the grant award be split?**

**A:** Not across multiple years, as this is a one-time, one-year grant. However, funds may be split across partners within a single application.

**Q: Are students expected to pursue arts degree pathways?**

**A:** No. Students are not required to pursue arts degrees. As long as programming supports FCCF's broader education and workforce development priorities, student progress of any kind is considered meaningful and positive.

## **Additional Webinar Questions (Answered Live):**

**Q: Can grant funds be used for scholarship programs?**

**A:** No. As with all FCCF grants, funds may not be used for individual purposes, including scholarships.

**Q: Are partnerships required to apply for or receive funding?**

**A:** Partnerships are not required, but they are strongly encouraged.

**Q: Can FCCF host convenings for potential partners to meet and collaborate?**

**A:** While we do not currently have the capacity to convene partners, we will CC all webinar attendees so conversations and collaborations can continue offline.



**Fairfield County's Community Foundation**

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**[FCCFoundation.org](https://FCCFoundation.org)**

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