

To Whom It May Concern,

ArtsWestchester would like to invite you and your organization to join us as a Voices for Change Partner and collaborate with us on our newest artist grant initiative funded by the National Endowment of the Arts.

ArtsWestchester began in 1965 as a conversation among community leaders, arts advocates, and volunteers in a living room and has grown into is New York State's largest private, not-for-profit cultural service organization. Our Core Values are that the arts are for everyone and we strive to amplify the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse voices within our community. The arts offer opportunities for advancement and personal growth and are a catalyst for systemic change, economic development, and community empowerment.

In 2021, ArtsWestchester piloted Voices for Change, a grant program which sought to support artists in making new work while engaging the community. We are able to offer this program again with expanded funding. As a first step in this year's grant cycle, we are inviting non-profit service organizations that serve residents in the Mid-Hudson Valley region to join us as Voices for Change Partners. Partners will be contacted by artists to initiate conversations around potential projects.

Here are some fast facts:

- Voices for Change will award a total of \$135,000 to artists
- Grant awards are made at the \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000 level, and paid directly to the artist.
- Artists are required to collaborate with a non-profit and can propose a range of activities such as workshops, performances, public art projects, and slam poetry sessions.
- Partners can serve residents in the following counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster or Westchester.
- Partners need to provide the name of a staff member who will serve as an artist liaison during the RFP process and during implementation of successfully-funded projects.
- Partners can be any non-profits including healthcare, criminal justice, and cultural centers.
- Partners will be asked to provide a letter of support by the artists for their application.

If you would like to be added to the Voices for Change Partners roster, please contact Adam Chau at [achau@artswestchester.org](mailto:achau@artswestchester.org) – please do not hesitate to ask questions on the guidelines for artists or any other inquiries about this grant opportunity. Organizations may also join us for a [Voices Partners Virtual Info Session on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at noon](#). Please note organizations are not eligible to apply. We plan to publish the Roster by the end of June and launch the artist RFP in July with an October submission deadline. We appreciate likeminded organizations like United Way for sharing this program with their colleagues. If you know other organizations that may benefit from a collaboration with an artist, we hope you will pass along this invitation.