

**The Arts & the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009**  
**Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism**  
**NEA Application**  
**Attachment I - Narrative**

**A. Proposed Sub granting Program**

Consistent with NEA's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program, the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism (CCT) will establish a sub granting program to distribute funds to eligible arts organizations with the focus to preserve jobs in the arts in Connecticut. These funds will support salaries, wages, fringe benefits and fees for administrative and artistic personnel whose jobs have recently been eliminated (since September 2008) or are threatened to be eliminated in the near future due to the current economic downturn. The purpose of these awards is "to mitigate risk" and recover arts jobs in the state.

The six New England state arts agencies, along with New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), have agreed to name our sub granting programs "Real Jobs" to reinforce NEA's ARRA message that jobs in the arts industry count and are an important sector of the state's and the region's economy.

- **Proposed applicant pool**

The applicant pool will consist of CCT's Organizational Support Program (OSP) and Local Arts Agency (LAA) grantees that have received general operating or project support funds from the CCT for three of the last four years. Targeting this applicant pool is consistent with NEA's ARRA goal of sub granting to existing award recipients with the demonstrated ability to deliver results and accountability.

OSP and LAA grantees:

- Have been vetted through a rigorous panel review by experts in the field and approved by the Arts Committee and the full CCT board
- Represent all arts disciplines and fields, organizational sizes and wide geographic reach
- Have a track record of carrying out their projects and meeting CCT's criteria of artistic excellence, outreach and service to community, and administrative soundness

CCT's OSP and LAA grantees number about 150, the majority of whom have full-time or part-time paid staff. Eligible applicants must have recently lost or are in danger of losing one or more staff or previously engaged contractual artists/personnel whose work is critical to the carrying out of the organization's mission. These positions must link to activities already underway or those that have received serious planning but, due to the current financial situation, have been put on hold or are threatened to be cancelled.

See below for the names and range of budget sizes of organizations that the OSP and the LAA programs serve.

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Name of largest Organization</b>	<b>Largest Budget*</b>	<b>Smallest Organization</b>	<b>Smallest Budget*</b>
Presenting	Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts	\$16,752,591	Trinity-On-Main (New Britain)	\$105,615
Theatre	Goodspeed Musicals	\$10,643,647	Repertory Theater of New Britain	\$58,346
Music	Hartford Symphony Orchestra	\$5,662,016	Farmington Valley Chorale	\$25,491
Visual Arts	Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art	\$8,840,428	Artwell Gallery (Torrington)	\$66,536
Dance	Pilobolus	\$2,640,829	Cultural Dance Troupe West Indies	\$72,925
Multi-Discipline	Music and Arts Center for Humanity (Bridgeport)	\$1,278,689	North End Arts Rising	\$59,349
Local Arts Agencies	Greater Hartford Arts Council	\$5,123,773	Northwest CT Arts Council	\$60,563

\* Budgets represent three year average operating income

- **Plans for making applicant pool aware**

On March 3, CCT sent out a message apprising all constituent organizations that guidelines for direct competitive NEA grants have been posted. On or before March 18, CCT will inform the applicant pool of the general timeframe and process for CCT and NEFA applications. Based on information provided by the NEA, CCT will advise those eligible organizations of their eligibility to apply directly to the NEA. CCT will remind all organizations that while an organization may apply for funding from all sources, an organization may only receive funding from one source.

Since March 3, CCT has received many inquiries and will continue to field calls and provide technical support to Connecticut applicants for ARRA funds regardless of the source. For example, we will ensure that NEA applicants for direct grants understand that they must obtain DUNS numbers and register with grants.gov. In collaboration with NEFA, CCT will create a FAQ and post other relevant ARRA information (such as the NEA “Recovery” website) under HOT Topics on our website and [www.recovery.ct.gov](http://www.recovery.ct.gov) (the state’s official “Recovery website”).

- **Efforts to reach organizations that serve underserved populations**

Consideration will be given to applicants that have a track record of reaching and serving underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, disability or age. The most comprehensive way of reaching these organizations of all sizes and disciplines is through our OSP and LAA programs.

- **Plans for receiving and reviewing requests**

CCT is working with NEFA and the five New England state arts agencies to develop a common application and coordinate timetables. Application information, narrative questions, review criteria, review process and documentation and reporting requirements will mirror those used by the NEA. CCT will encourage eligible applicants to apply to as many sources for which they are eligible.

See the table below for CCT project timeline for receiving and reviewing requests.

March 13, 2009	CCT application due to NEA
On or before March 18	CCT informs the applicant pool of the general timeframe for CCT and NEFA applications
March 28	NEA approves CCT plan
April 1	ARRA funds available to CCT
April 3	Deadline for Governor Rell's certification
April 15	CCT application available online
May 15	CCT application due
Week of June 15	Panel Review
Exact date TBD	NEFA meets to approve direct grants. NEFA informs CCT of Connecticut award recipients.
June 28	National Council meets to approve direct grants. NEA informs CCT of Connecticut award recipients.
Week of June 29	CCT reviews NEA and NEFA award lists and prepares CCT list for board approval
Week of July 6	CCT announces awards

For panelists, CCT will exchange with NEFA and the other New England state arts agencies to recruit candidates.

**B. Appropriateness of This Project to CCT's Mission**

Connecticut's ARRA program relates directly to CCT's mission – to preserve and promote Connecticut's cultural [and tourism] assets in order to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the state. The program specifically supports CCT's Organizational Support and Local Arts Agency programs whose goal is to strengthen, develop and safeguard Connecticut's arts institutions. They make up the state's nonprofit arts industry, an important sector of Connecticut's economy. By preserving jobs in this applicant pool, the ARRA funds will reach the full geographic range and the broadest constituency possible including underserved populations. Preserving jobs among these institutions will have a significant and immediate impact on Connecticut's arts workforce.

**C. Impact of Administering on CCT**

In the interest of maximizing the amount of funds distributed, CCT will manage this sub granting program in house with existing staff. CCT's Arts Division Director will serve as the lead. She will be assisted by her OSP and LAA program managers and the division's administrative assistant and public information fellow.

This program will add a layer of work to the current load of all staff concerned. In particular, the last quarter of the fiscal year (April-June) coincides with the height of our panel season for OSP and LAA applications. Given that the ARRA funds will provide much-needed boost and restore arts jobs in Connecticut, however, CCT is pleased to respond swiftly and efficiently to this opportunity offered by the NEA.

\$300,000 will be distributed as grant awards. Considering CCT's current budget situation, we will reserve \$6,100 for photocopying, postage, supplies and other miscellaneous project-specific expenses. We estimate that the in-kind cost of administering the program will total about 10% of combined salaries of staff concerned = approximately \$40,000.