

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 180

Is your organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit?

Yes

According to your 501(c)3 letter, in what town is your official office located?

Hartford

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

Hartford

Will this activity occur after February 1, 2023?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

No

Organization Name

The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

066070722

Principal Contact Name

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Title

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[Map It](#)

Website

<http://www.foundation.uconn.edu>

Amount requested this application

\$15,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

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The UConn Foundation solicits, receives and administers gifts and financial resources from private sources for the benefit of all campuses and programs of the University of Connecticut. The Foundation operates exclusively to promote educational, scientific, cultural, and recreational objectives of the University of Connecticut and UConn Health.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The University of Connecticut, with its 12 Schools and Colleges, is the state's flagship institution of higher education. The University ranks among the top 25 public universities nationally and is consistently ranked the top public university in New England. UConn is classified as a Carnegie Foundation R1 institution (highest research activity), and among its approximately 10,000 faculty are many nationally and internationally recognized thought-leaders in their respective domains. Record numbers of applicants have made the university extraordinarily selective and has led to an equally impressive student body that has included Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, and Goldwater Scholars in very recent years. Beyond research and education, the University embraces diversity, cultivates leadership, and promotes the health and well-being of citizens by enhancing the social, economic, cultural, and natural environments of the state and beyond.

This grant requests falls under UConn's EPOCH (Engaged, Public, Oral and Community Histories) program in the History Department, part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. EPOCH formalizes the History Department's initiatives to promote engaged, public, oral and community histories. It fosters collaborative intellectual inquiry between students, faculty, and community-based organizations around a particular historical theme and through a number of training activities and deliverables.

Describe the demographics of your audience/people served by your activities.

Student Characteristics

Undergraduate - 24,371

Female: 52%

Minority: 40%

International: 8%

Connecticut Residents: 77%

Grad/Professional - 8,298

Female: 54%

Minority: 24%

International: 21%

Connecticut Residents: 67%

Non-Resident Alien: 3,483

Black or African-American: 2,454

American Indian or Alaska Native: 25

Asian: 3,559

Hispanic/Latino: 4,731

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 10

White: 16,734

Describe your organization's governance.

The UConn Foundation is governed by a dynamic volunteer board of 31-elected directors who are drawn from corporations and community organizations, as well as ex officios from UConn's administration, faculty, and student body. Each (100%) member generous!

Describe the diversity of your board.

Total # of active UCF Board Elected Directors: 31

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Gender

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What percentage of your board makes personal financial contributions to your organization?

100%

Project Name

The West Indian Mural Project

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

Yes

Will the artists associated with this project be financially compensated?

Yes

Project Description

The West Indian Mural Project is part of a broader suite of projects and programming aimed at exploring how Hartford became an African American and a Caribbean city and what this demographic shift means for understanding global urban history, migration, labor, and world cultures. The project is being conducted by UConn's EPOCH program. This suite of projects aligns with best practices in community engagement, makes innovative scholarly interventions in the fields of urban and ethnic studies and African American and Caribbean history; supports inclusive storytelling through art that engages world cultures; fosters collaborative intellectual inquiry between students, community, faculty and artists; provides experiential and research opportunities for undergraduates, including exhibition design; leveraging UConn's resources in wider service to the public and in partnership with local municipalities and non-profit organizations.

Total estimated project budget

\$30,000.00

Project start/opening

06/01/2022

Project end/closing

12/31/2022

Project venue

West Indian Social Club

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

Activity dates are slated for June 2022 - December 2023, with the opening of a permanent installation at the West Indian Social Club of Hartford located in the north end of Hartford, and the public art installation in September 2023. Attendance

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goals for the project are 500-800 visitors within the year of the mural opening. Active fundraising for the mural project will take place between April 2022 and June 2023, with a call for participation issued in August 2022.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The project will be promoted via the West Indian Social of Hartford, the Greater Hartford Arts Council, the Connecticut Office of the Arts, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the University of Connecticut through social media outlets, press releases, and email marketing.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

Funding from the Roberts Foundation will be used for artist fees and materials, installation of a permanent exhibition, and the development of school and public touring program.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

The Roberts Foundation's support will be recognized in all social media and print material, with a plaque at the organization, and on the project website.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

For UConn's Engaged, Public, Oral, and Community Histories (EPOCH), art is a gateway to culture, heritage, history, and a sense of belonging. We envision artistic excellence as a way to blend aesthetics and acknowledgement and we envision this project as an invitation to the public to engage the history of the Caribbean diaspora through the visual arts.

How does this project align with that definition, and how does it advance your mission?

Local communities in Hartford are looking for cultural and aesthetic experiences that provide opportunities to acknowledge and reflect their lived experiences. The West Indian Mural Project and suite of projects in which it is embedded, advance the History Department's EPOCH mission of documenting the contributions the Caribbean diaspora has made to Hartford, to Connecticut, and to the United States while also exploring how they built new American communities and established new American roots. This project is an opportunity for agency in telling those stories and an opportunity for collaboration with visual artists to manifest the history in an aesthetically compelling way that resonates emotionally with the wider community. We envision this project as a way to achieve something that is for, by, and about the community that carries on Hartford's legacy as a particular artistic and cultural space.

How will your audience and the community benefit from this project?

Facing discrimination, migrants who came to Connecticut founded their own social, religious, and athletic organizations as autonomous cultural spaces and networks beginning with the West Indian Social Club followed by a host of other social, fraternal, and religious organizations in the Hartford area. Their story deserves to be told, documented, and disseminated and with it the host of communities, institutions, and individuals who helped West Indians settle in the area. The mural project allows the public to engage this story through the visual arts and invites an ongoing conversation about the role of aesthetics as another language for expressing the history of the Hartford's Caribbean diaspora. The audience, community and organization will benefit from this public installation by having some agency in telling their stories and creating a platform that can engage an audience from school-aged children to the public who want to understand more about Hartford and its evolution.

How will this project be evaluated?

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The project sketches will be made by a panel of community artists and the cultural heritage committee of the West Indian Social Club. The WISC will host a public opening as well on ongoing tours where feedback will be solicited.

Success will be evaluated based on EPOCH's ability to successfully solicit a professional artist who is capable of manifesting the mission of the project into a permanent mural.

Further success is evaluated through attendance figures including the ability to attract public schools, historical societies, and municipalities to the mural as part of public tours or artist destinations.

Cover letter

- [Cover-Letter-2022-Roberts-Foundation-signed.pdf](#)

Board list

- [UCF-Board-List-with-Affiliations-10.22.21.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [501c3-Determination-Letter-IRS-signed-2016.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [UConn-Fdn-FY21-Audited-Financial-Statements.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [Operating-Budget-FY22-vs-FY-21.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [Operating-Budget-FY22-Approved.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Balance-Sheet-FYE-21.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [Mural-Budget-22-23.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

Yes

Annual report

- [UCF-FY21-Annual-Report.pdf](#)

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Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

Yes

Strategic plan

- [Strategic-Plan-Components.pdf](#)

Does your organization have a formal policy or organizational commitment to ensure that visual artists are financially compensated?

No

If awarded this grant, the grant funds will be administered, held, and invested by The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. The University of Connecticut (University) will remain responsible for academic programming of the grant as described herein, including the management of any regulatory compliance matters and evaluation. The Foundation is an independent non-stock Connecticut corporation existing for the exclusive benefit of the University. The Foundation is an organization described under Section 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. All contributions are subject to certain administrative fees that support the Foundation operating expenses and other priorities determined by the University unit receiving the gift. There is a 5% gift fee on all non-endowed funds. Donors have the right to request that gifts remain anonymous.

Have you contacted the Executive Director by email or phone to discuss this proposal?

Yes

Is your cover letter signed by your senior executive? on your letterhead? with your official office address?

Yes