

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 94

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?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

190973-Roberts2020

Organization Name

Artists Collective, Inc.

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

060889475

Principal Contact Name

Miriam Roane

Title

Director

Email

info@artistscollective.org

Phone

(860) 527-3205

Address

1200 Albany Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06112
United States
[Map It](#)

Website

<http://www.artistscollective.org>

Amount requested this application

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\$10,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The mission of the Artists Collective is to preserve and perpetuate the arts and culture of the African Diaspora by providing training in the performing and visual arts and by sponsoring special events. It is also the mission of the Collective to develop professional artists, to foster positive feelings of self-identity among peoples of the African Diaspora, and to raise public consciousness about the value of this culture.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Now in its 51st year, the Artists Collective's main purpose is to provide student programs in performing and visual arts to children and youth in Hartford, primarily serving youth in North Hartford neighborhoods. The Artists Collective works collaboratively with the City of Hartford – Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation, Greater Hartford Arts Council, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Connecticut Office of the Arts, Connecticut JUD Criminal Justice-Youth Services, and foundation to provide our key programs serving the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community in Hartford, Greater Hartford, and surrounding communities. Our key programs are as follows: the Rites of Passage (ROP) After-School Program, ROP Summer Program, Youth Justice Initiative - to reduce truancy in Hartford, Youth Preventive Services, the Youth Jazz Orchestra - Neighborhood Studios program, and regular/individual training in music and vocals. We present renowned, and emerging, artists in performances and concerts in our theater and atrium. We also offer facility rental space for private events, public events, and conferences.

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

The Artists Collective's performances and professional concerts attract a widely diverse audience, comprised of an average of 45% White, 45% Black and Afro-Caribbean, 5% Latinx, and 5% Other Races. In the virtual event we recently presented due to COVID-19, we were not able to determine the age, race, ethnicity, or residency of the audience served, although the Kwanzaa Celebration, posted to YouTube in December attracted 241 views. In this presentation, the Clifton Anderson Sextet's streaming performance, hosted by the Artists Collective, is expected to attract our regular audience, a wider audience of those who follow Clifton Anderson's music, and other interested visitors.

In our student programs, the demographics served are children and youth 3-18 years old, who are 90% Black and Afro-Caribbean, 5% White and Latinx, and 5% Other Races.

Describe your organization's governance.

The Artists Collective's board meets bi-monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month, or more frequently as needed. The board attendance rate is 90%, with the same percentage contributing financially to the organization. In the past year, the board has built community relationships to benefit the organization. The Artists Collective's leadership is in a transitional phase, as of now.

Describe the diversity of your board.

The Artists Collective's board is comprised of 14 members, 13 are Black or Afro-Caribbean and one is White, for a percentage of 75% Black or BIPOC and 25% White. The gender split is 50% Female and 50% Male. Our diverse board is reflective of the community served.

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

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90% of board members make personal financial contributions to the Artists Collective.

Project Name

2021 Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration

Project Description

The Artists Collective will present the 2021 Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration as a virtual event on Saturday, May 15th at 8:00 PM. The event will be recorded by the Clifton Anderson Sextet at their studio in New York. The ticket sales for this event will be \$25 each and the event will be available for viewing on a platform to-be-determined, from May 15th through May 29th.

Trombonist Clifton Anderson's new release "Been Down This Road Before" includes tributes to bass legend Bob Cranshaw, African percussionist Kimati Dinizulu, his sister Vallyn Anderson, and his uncle legendary saxophonist Sonny Rollins. www.cliftonanderson.biz

The project is expected to attract a wide audience and will be the first Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration that we have produced as a virtual presentation. Due to COVID-19, we are reaching new audiences through a virtual format. Clifton Anderson will have the performance professionally recorded and we will present it to our audience and community.

Total estimated project budget

\$10,000.00

Project start/opening

05/01/2021

Project end/closing

05/31/2021

Project venue

This will be a virtual performance.

Project town

It will be accessible as a virtual production and available to a wide audience.

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The recorded performance will be presented online. We are working with our website provider to include a ticketing application, and/or will add a function to our Facebook page for ticket purchases. At this time, we plan to charge \$25 per ticket for access to the virtual presentation, which will be uploaded or live streamed on Saturday, May 15th at 8:00 PM. We expect to keep the performance open for viewing until Saturday, May 29th.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The event will be promoted on our website (www.artistscollective.org), Facebook (The Artists Collective - Hartford-CT@theartistscollectivehartford), broadcasting, press release, and any other media used to promote the event.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

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Funding from the Foundation will be used as follows: Artists Fees = \$5,200 including rehearsals and the performance, Film Crew = \$1,750, Venue Rental = \$1,050, Artists Collective marketing, promotion, social media, and presenting the event = \$2,000. The event total the performing artists is \$8,000 and Artists Collective's total is \$2,000 = \$10,000, in funding from the Foundation.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

The Foundation will be recognized on all printed material, social media, our website, broadcasting, and other marketing related to the event. As this will be a recorded performance presented on YouTube, we will work with the production team to ensure recognition of the Foundations support of this project.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

The Artists Collective's definition of artistic excellence is presenting only the highest quality performances and concerts in our Theater. With long-standing relationships in the world of music, the Artists Collective has produced concerts featuring renowned jazz greats, such as Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Toots Thielman, Dizzy Gillespie, Abby Lincoln, Jack DeJohnette, Sheila Jordan, and Randy Weston, to name a few. In our community, we have strong relationships with Artists Collective alumni who still perform in our theater, such as percussionist Jocelyn Pleasant and many others.

In our programs, we have produced many successful alumni, such as saxophonist Jimmy Greene, artists Eriq Lasalle and Tony Todd, and percussionist Cindy Blackman. Also, with a long relationship with the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz - The Hartt School, University of Hartford, we have educators and instrumentalists who teach up-and-coming youth in our Youth Jazz Orchestra.

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

The 2021 Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration aligns with our mission by providing visitors from the community, and other areas, with a high-caliber performance by the renowned Clifton Anderson. The annual event pays tribute to NEA Jazz Master, alto-saxophonist, innovator, and educator, Jackie McLean. This project advances our mission by keeping alive the traditions of jazz, and more importantly by presenting an event that is accessible and relatable to the Hartford constituents we serve. The project also increases awareness of the Artists Collective, and in non-COVID times, attracts audiences to our location on Albany Avenue in Hartford. This year, the concert will reach a wider audience due to the accessibility of the online presentation and wide following of the Clifton Anderson Sextet.

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

The audience and the community will benefit from the project, as it will affirm the continuum of the Artists Collective in the community and provide an opportunity for cultural appreciation through a professional jazz performance. The project has the potential to reach a much wider audience than usual, since it will be a virtual event. It will allow audiences from more distant places to purchase tickets and experience the event from their location. It will benefit the community, since new audiences may attend the virtual event, learn more about the Artists Collective, and perhaps visit in the future. It will benefit our community by being affordable and a point-of-pride that cultural performances like this are part of the fabric of their community.

How will this project be evaluated?

The project will be evaluated based on viewership, ticket sales, and feedback from the virtual audience.

Cover letter

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- [Director-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [AC-Board-of-Directors-List.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [Artists-Collective-501c3.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Artists-Collective-2017_18-audit.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [AC-FY20-Operating-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [AC-FY21-Operating-Budget-DRAFT.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Software-Migration.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [AC-JMAC-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

Grant Report

- [Artists-Collective.pdf](#)

Other materials?

- [Clifton-Anderson-Bio.pdf](#)

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The Artists Collective is currently migrating to a new financial software system (Quickbooks). The migration of financial data is nearly completed, although we cannot, at this time, produce the past three months of finances in a balance sheet. We request that you bear with us as we complete the migration. We expect to be able to send you an updated profit/loss financial statement once this is completed.

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