

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445**Are you a 501(c)3 organization in good standing with the IRS?**

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 April 1, 2025?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

ROBERTS2022

Organization Name

Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

061358376

Principal Contact Name

Charles Christie

Title

President

Emailcchristie@hartfordjazz.org**Phone**

(860) 490-2199

Address

P O Box 230760
Hartford, Connecticut 06123-0760
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<http://www.hartfordjazz.org/>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445**Amount requested this application**

\$25,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The mission of the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz is to promote, produce, and manage a world-class festival that enlivens the cultural and economic vitality of Greater Hartford.

The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz initiative enhances the lives of community members, including residents, musicians, and business owners.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Historically, the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz has showcased an array of traditional, Latin, and smooth jazz artists on the historic Thomas D. Harris IV stage in Bushnell Park. This stage offers stunning views of Connecticut's State Capitol and downtown Hartford's scenic skyline, adding to the festival's artistic excellence.

The festival serves as a platform to entertain, educate, and provide opportunities for those who value the arts. It opens avenues for up-and-coming musicians. This year, we are collaborating with James Antonucci to create and deliver The GHFJ Generations Big Band & Guest Artist.

Our goal is to introduce and educate our audience about the city of Hartford, new artists, and various jazz genres. Art from the Hart interweaves dance and spoken word throughout the weekend, promising an artistic experience.

In addition to musical excellence, we offer vendors opportunities to showcase physical art and merchandise. Vendors display paintings and handcrafted unique pieces along the green.

Over three days, the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz attracts over 100,000 people to Bushnell Park. While many come for the music, others come to relax, shop, and enjoy the food vendors. This event truly enlivens the cultural and economic vitality of Greater Hartford, enhancing the lives of residents, musicians, and business owners alike.

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

Our fan base and attendance grow yearly, one of our main goals is to continue to bring people of many different cultures, ethnicities, and socioeconomic standing to the city and continue to grow the festival. Here is the data from our FaceBook professional dashboard that has 9K active plus members. Follower's age and gender 18-24 7%, 25-34 8.8%, 35-44 19.8%, and 45-54 25.6%. Gender is 71% Women and 29% Men. Top counties US 8.7K, PR 27, Canada 13, France 13. This is a small example of people.

Describe your organization's governance.

Our organization is governed by a dedicated working Board of 11 members. We hold 16 full Board meetings annually, in addition to various sub-committee meetings. Our Board members demonstrate a high level of commitment, with a participation rate of 90%.

Please describe the diversity of your board by gender and ethnicity/race. Use percentages.

The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz is committed to diversity and accessibility. The festival's small team of volunteers achieves diversity and cultural fairness in its board, partnerships, grant-making, and programs. The festival seeks to be a supporter and model for arts organizations in the region, particularly in board make-up. The board is made up of Black, White, and Latino.

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

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445

We are all 100% invested in the organization. All Board members pay dues to the organization.

Project Name

The 34th Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz "Jazzy Times"

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

This year's theme is "Jazzy Times." For the 2025 Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz, we will blend Latin Jazz, Smooth Jazz, and Traditional Jazz throughout the weekend.

On Friday, local headliner Ace Livingston & Friends will perform a Tribute to Frankie Beverly. Saturday features Pieces of a Dream, an American R&B and jazz fusion group known for their smooth blend of jazz, funk, and R&B. Sunday, Lakecia Benjamin, a New York-based saxophonist known for her unique blend of jazz, funk, and R&B, will set the stage for Carl Allen, an acclaimed jazz drummer celebrated for his dynamic performances and collaborations with jazz legends.

Total estimated project budget

\$531,195.00

Project start/opening

07/18/2025

Project end/closing

07/20/2025

Project venue

Bushnell Park

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The fundraising efforts target less than 1% of the audience, ensuring that the majority of attendees can still enjoy the festival at no cost. We have created a VIP seating area, offering premium viewing experiences for those who wish to support the festival financially. VIP seating is priced at Friday \$75, Saturday & Sunday \$100 per person, with a capacity of 190 people per day. Tent City**: where attendees can reserve a tent space for \$50 per person.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We will continue to use a dynamic blend of public relations and our social media platforms to market the schedule once it has been secured to stimulate engagement and excitement. This year we plan to partner with Fox61/CT20 which will also support traction to promote the event and bring awareness to all parties involved: Audience VIP, Tent City, sponsors, artists, and vendors by providing user-friendly access for attendees interested in gaining more information on how to get involved or support.

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

The Roberts Foundation for the Arts funding will be used to bring in two exceptional groups on July 20, 2025. Lakecia Benjamin, a New York-based saxophonist known for her unique blend of jazz, funk, and R&B, will set the stage for Carl Allen, an acclaimed jazz drummer celebrated for his dynamic performances and collaborations with jazz legends. This generous gift will enable our organization to hire top-quality musicians, allowing them to share their talents and inspire our community.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

We are always honored to recognize the Roberts Foundation in our Hospitality section, and we proudly feature the foundation on our t-shirts, print media, digital marketing, and with verbal mentions on stage throughout our 3-day event. The artists your organization has funded are highlighted and celebrated, ensuring their contributions do not go unnoticed...

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

For 33 years, the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz has produced, managed, and promoted a world-class festival. Throughout its history, music and music history have been made on our stage. The festival provides a platform for both emerging and established artists to showcase their talents live. This on-stage expression resonates deeply with the audience. Our curated acts create a sense of unity through energy and sound, designed to flow harmoniously both outdoors and indoors, delighting the mind, body, and spirit. This musical diversity is an art form in itself, making GHFJ a true cultural experience.

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

The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz fosters a sense of community and peace throughout the park, from the music to the welcoming atmosphere. Our team and production vendors, all from the Greater Hartford area, contribute to this harmonious environment. Even our marketing material is a work of art, with a unique theme custom-designed by Hartford's finest graphic designers each year. This project aligns with our mission by creating a space where people feel comfortable and connected, advancing our goal of enriching the cultural fabric of Greater Hartford.

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

"Music is the universal language of the soul, lifting our spirits and soothing our minds. It has the power to heal, inspire, and unite us." Our goal is to continue bringing positivity, hope, and unity to our audience by providing quality sound that helps reduce the stress and anxiety many are facing. With so many brick-and-mortar locations shutting down, our festival offers opportunities for small businesses and jobs for workers from larger companies. This event truly embodies selflessness and community spirit. By attending the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz, the audience and community will benefit from a sense of togetherness and cultural enrichment. The festival not only provides a platform for artists to showcase their talents but also supports local businesses and creates job opportunities. This event fosters a welcoming environment where people can relax, enjoy music, and connect with others, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being and vitality of the Greater Hartford area.

How will this project be evaluated?

The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz aims to provide a virtual musical experience for Hartford residents and beyond. We will evaluate the project by obtaining quality analytics to calculate the number of followers tuning in across all platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and our website. Viewers can provide commentary and reviews on the quality of sound and visuals through social media platforms. Artists will offer testimonials on their experience and the hospitality received. Financial supporters will communicate through donations and grants, reflecting their satisfaction and desire to continue supporting quality jazz. Our 33 years of service speak volumes about our commitment, and we strive to maintain this legacy for years to come.

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445**Cover letter**

- [2025-GHFJ-Executive-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [The-Greater-Hartford-Festival-of-Jazz-Board-List-2025.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [GHFJ-501-c3-Letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [GHFJ-2024-990.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [2024-Actual-vs-Budget-detail-as-of-1-5-25.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [2025-GHFJ-Budget-as-of-12-14-24-detail.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [GHFJ-Balance-Sheet-as-of-12-31-24.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [2025-GHFJ-Budget-as-of-12-14-24-summary.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

Yes

Strategic plan

- [2023-The-Greater-Hartford-Festival-of-Jazz-Strategic-Plan.pdf](#)

Grant Report

- [Greater-Hartford-Festival-of-Jazz-Grantee-Reporting-Form-.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 445**Other materials?**

- [LB_CA-Bios.pdf](#)

We at the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz feel that this year may be one of the most challenging due to the loss of access to American Rescue Plan funds and the current climate of the country with numerous catastrophic events. To reach our budget goals, we need to find new sources of support. We are actively pursuing grants and seeking new potential income sources. This will indeed be a challenging fundraising year, but we are committed to overcoming these obstacles to continue providing a world-class festival for our community.

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