

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 542**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 May 1, 2026 ?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

967697-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

060653111

Principal Contact Name

Erin Sullivan

Title

Grants Writer

Emailerin.sullivan@thewadsworth.org**Phone**

(860) 838-4038

Address

600 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<https://www.thewadsworth.org/>

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\$30,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The Wadsworth honors the past and inspires the future through the power of human creativity. Guided by its founding belief that art can uplift society and ignite progress, The Wadsworth inspires reflection, dialogue, and cultural transformation through its outstanding collection, programs, and partnerships.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art, spanning 5,000 years. As the oldest continuously operating public art museum in the United States, it is a museum that prides itself on its stewardship of a collection that reflects past generations while remaining engaging to current audiences. We do so by illuminating relevant, compelling stories, and growing partnerships with Hartford and Connecticut's diverse communities. We are consistently reimagining our spaces to be inviting, welcoming, and accessible, as well as striving to build an inclusive organizational culture that is active, aligned, and accountable.

The museum features a wide range of programs including lectures, gallery talks, art studio events, lunchtime programs, public and school tours, concerts, and films to enrich and educate participants of all ages. Monthly programs such as Second Saturdays for Families offer free admission for families to tour the galleries, experience live performances and music, and enjoy making art together. To support school-based arts education, the Wadsworth offers Art and Literacy programs, which provide educators with rich, curriculum-based programming that develops students' literacy skills through close looking and thoughtful writing based on artworks in our permanent collection. The Community Arts Program engages youth in after-school programs throughout Hartford combining a docent-guided tour with related art-making activities aimed at encouraging the 21st century skills of collaboration and communication by fostering dialogue and artmaking based on objects in the Wadsworth's collection. All programs offered by the museum seek to help participants deepen their knowledge, make personal connections, and explore their creativity.

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

The Wadsworth serves an average of 77,000 visitors annually. Respondents to the FY25 Adult Visitor Survey were 6% Asian/Asian American, 14% Black/African American, 6% Hispanic/Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin, 0% Native American/Indigenous, 1% West Asian/North African, 67% White, and 6% Multiracial.

Describe your organization's governance.

The Wadsworth's board of trustees holds 6 board meetings per year. In those meetings, 65% of the board members are present at each individual meeting. They are provided with up-to-date financial reports and 79% of our board members have donated within the last fiscal year. As of January 2026, The Wadsworth has welcomed a new President and Chief Executive Officer, Allison Blais.

Ethnicity/Race + %

White 80%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Black 17%

Ethnicity/Race + %

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Hispanic 3%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Female 51%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Male 49%

Ethnicity/Race + %

0

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

79% of the board of trustees made a contribution in the last fiscal year. Trustees who did not make a contribution may have been newly elected, represent a donating organization, or provide another reasonable consideration for not donating.

Project Name

The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from Museo de Arte de Ponce

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

Yes

Will the artists associated with this project be financially compensated?

Yes

Project Description

The Sense of Beauty: Six Centuries of Painting from Museo de Arte de Ponce is a loaned exhibition featuring sixty masterworks by European, North American, and Puerto Rican artists, representing the most important areas in the Museo de Arte de Ponce's collection. Inspired by a speech delivered by museum founder, Luis A. Ferré in 1964, "The sense of beauty, aesthetic quality, is innate in every human and has found expression in various forms throughout history," the exhibition is organized into five thematic sections: Religious Inspiration, The Life of the People, The Natural Landscape, Human Sensibility, and the Cult of Beauty. Thoughtful juxtapositions of artwork foster visual and thematic dialogue, encouraging new understandings of the collection and unexpected connections between works.

A companion exhibition of art by Connecticut's Puerto Rican community will run concurrently with The Sense of Beauty. Created by a Guest Curator, it is intended to give voice to local artists.

Total estimated project budget

\$553,096.00

Project start/opening

11/11/2026

Project end/closing

03/14/2027

Project venue

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The Wadsworth

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

Admission to the exhibition is included with general museum admission. Our ticket prices are currently: Adults \$22, Seniors (62+) \$18, Youth (12-18) \$10, Students \$10, Members, Hartford Residents, & Youth 12 and under are free. The exhibition is projected to attract 30,000 visitors over the four-month run, with an estimated 10,440 paid admissions and 19,560 comp admissions. Based on a forthcoming change to our hours, expanding to 5 open days per week, the exhibition will be open for 99 days.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The Wadsworth will promote the exhibition and related programming across multiple platforms. Printed materials will include a quarterly calendar of events, postcard invitations to museum members, and print advertising. Exhibitions and programs are featured on the museum's website and will be boosted by digital advertising and content shared on the museum's Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter) followers, as well as through monthly email newsletters sent to subscribers.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

Funds from the Roberts Foundation for the Arts will help support the costs associated with bringing this extraordinary exhibition to the museum, including loan fees, gallery transformations at The Wadsworth, and the presentation of these exceptional artworks.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

Support from the Roberts Foundation for the Arts will be credited on the exhibition title wall; in the exhibition catalogue; on all exhibition-related print materials, including the brochure, postcards, quarterly programming calendar, and gallery guide; on the museum's website; in social media posts about the exhibition; and in the museum's Annual Report.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

The Wadsworth is a museum defined by its many firsts. Founded by Daniel Wadsworth, one of America's earliest art patrons, it has played a leading role in paving the way for public art museums in the United States. It was among the first American museums to acquire works by artists as prominent as Caravaggio, Frederic Church, Salvador Dalí, and Alexander Calder, and was an early champion of emerging contemporary artists. Through innovative exhibitions spanning the breadth of art history, The Wadsworth has contributed meaningfully to the evolution of public museum practice nationwide. Visitors find captivating and imaginative installations that reflect the depth and quality of its collection. As the museum continues to present exhibitions alongside educational programs, performances, films, and community events, it strengthens its institutional capacity, advances professional museum practice, and fosters creativity, scholarship, and meaningful community engagement through the arts.

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

The Wadsworth recently reaffirmed its mission through a redefined Strategic Plan and institutional rebrand. The plan identifies six guiding goals: strengthening foundations, showcasing artistic excellence, promoting awareness, transforming the workplace, fostering engagement, and inspiring giving. The Sense of Beauty advances all six goals by delivering an exhibition, public programs, and an inclusive and collaborative planning process that reflects the diversity of the museum's collections

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and the communities it serves. By creating new platforms for storytelling and expanding representation in visual narratives, the project showcases artistic excellence through the presentation of world-class art rarely seen outside of Puerto Rico. It elevates the Puerto Rican diaspora by engaging local artists to represent their community and welcomes partners through programming and outreach. Through this work, The Wadsworth fosters an environment of respect, curiosity, and shared discovery.

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

Through this exhibition and related programming, the museum is committed to building relationships with the Latine community. Hartford is home to the largest Puerto Rican population in Connecticut and has an active network of musicians, visual artists, and performers. The museum will co-develop and host community programs that celebrate Latine culture, including a film festival and presentations by local creatives, and will attend events such as the Northeast Taíno conference. A significant addition to this project is a companion exhibition showcasing contemporary Puerto Rican artists with ties to Connecticut. Curated by a local creative, this show will run concurrently with The Sense of Beauty. Both exhibitions and The Sense of Beauty catalogue will be offered in Spanish and English and promoted with bilingual marketing. Beyond the exhibition, the museum is committed to serving the community with inclusive assets, such as bilingual tours, marketing materials, and exhibition didactics.

How will this project be evaluated?

To evaluate The Sense of Beauty, the museum's Learning and Engagement and Visitor Services staff will use the following evaluation strategies to gather qualitative and quantitative data.

- Attendance will be tracked for the exhibition and all related programs
- Visitors will be asked if it is the first time they are visiting or when they last visited, to assess if the exhibition is drawing new audiences or re-engaging them with the museum for the first time in several years
- An e-survey about the exhibition will be sent out to visitors who opt-in, gathering data on visitor engagement and interest, program effectiveness, and educational and artistic merit. Program-specific evaluations may be used to better understand the experiences of particular audiences
- Usage statistics will be gathered for the exhibition's mobile guide and related content on the museum's website
- Informal feedback shared with Visitor Services staff will be compiled and shared with staff and stakeholders

Cover letter

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

Board list

- [FY26-Wadsworth-Board-List.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [The-Wadsworth 501c3-Certification-Letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Wadsworth-Atheneum-Audited-Financial-Statements-FY24.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

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- [Wadsworth-FY25-Operating-Budget.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [FY-2026-Wadsworth-Annual-Operating-Budget.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [The-Wadsworth-Balance-Sheet-as-of-11.30.25.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [Wadsworth_Sense-of-Beauty_Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

Yes

Annual report

- [Wadsworth-Annual-Report.pdf](#)

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

Yes

Strategic plan

- [Wadsworth-2025_2028-Strategic-Plan.pdf](#)

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

Yes

Visual Artist Compensation Policy

- [Wadsworth-Policy-of-Artist-Financial-Compensation.pdf](#)

Grant Report

- [Wadsworth-Atheneum-Museum-of-Art-Grantee-Reporting-Form.pdf](#)

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