

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 548**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

Organization Name

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

222849122

Principal Contact Name

Phillip Albert

Title

Chief Advancement and Finance Officer

EmailPalbert@amistadcenter.org**Phone**

(225) 763-1476

Address

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

Website<https://www.amistadcenter.org/>**Amount requested this application**

\$20,000.00

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What is the organization’s mission/vision statement?

The mission of the Amistad Center for Art and Culture is to honor, preserve, and celebrate the artistic and cultural contributions of people of African descent.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture was founded in 1987 in Hartford, Connecticut, as an independent nonprofit dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the artistic and cultural contributions of people of African descent. It is housed at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, now The Wadsworth, and was established through a partnership of community leaders, foundations, and the State of Connecticut to ensure public access to an important collection of African American art and history. The organization takes its name and inspiration from the 1839 Amistad rebellion, a powerful symbol of freedom and resistance.

Today, the Center stewards a collection of more than 7,000 works, including fine art, photography, historical artifacts, rare books, and archives documenting over 300 years of African American experience. Through rotating exhibitions, educational initiatives, public programs, and community partnerships, the Amistad Center for Art and Culture serves as a regional and national resource for cultural preservation, scholarship, and public engagement, connecting diverse audiences to American history through the lens of African American art and culture.

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

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture serves a broad, multigenerational audience drawn primarily from Hartford and the Greater Hartford region, with additional reach across Connecticut and the Northeast. Core audiences include African American, Afro Caribbean, African, and Latino communities, reflecting the cultural histories represented in the Center’s exhibitions and programs.

Describe your organization's governance.

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture is governed by an independent volunteer Board of Directors responsible for fiduciary oversight, strategic direction, policy development, and executive leadership support. The Board provides governance in alignment with nonprofit best practices, including financial stewardship, compliance, risk management, and long-term planning.

Ethnicity/Race + %

White 18%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Black 82%

Ethnicity/Race + %

0

Ethnicity/Race + %

0

Ethnicity/Race + %

0

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0

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

100% of the Board of Directors of the Amistad Center for Art and Culture make personal financial contributions or in-kind donations of services and/or likeness to the organization annually.

Board giving is a core expectation of service and reflects strong commitment to the Center's mission, financial sustainability, and accountability to funders and the community.

Project Name

America 250: Rebel I Revolt I Resist

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

Yes

Will the artists associated with this project be financially compensated?

Yes

Project Description

Rebel I Revolt I Resist is a multi-section exhibition that examines resistance as a central force in the shaping of American democracy and global freedom movements. Organized thematically rather than chronologically alone, the exhibition moves from acts of rebellion and revolution to sustained practices of resistance, emphasizing collective action, cultural survival, and political imagination.

The exhibition opens with Rebel, focusing on individuals and groups who embraced radical action in moments of moral crisis. Revolt expands the frame internationally, foregrounding large-scale uprisings led by enslaved Africans in the Caribbean and the Atlantic world. The exhibition then transitions to Resist, exploring endurance, memory, and the long arc of freedom struggles after formal emancipation.

Throughout, Rebel I Revolt I Resist invites visitors to reconsider democracy as an ongoing process—expanded and defended by those historically excluded from its promises.

Total estimated project budget

\$45,000.00

Project start/opening

05/03/2026

Project end/closing

03/02/2027

Project venue

The Wadsworth

Project town

HARTFORD

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Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture prioritizes accessibility and community engagement. General admission is in accordance with The Wadsworth policies, and many programs are offered at no cost to remove financial barriers to participation.

The Center serves thousands of visitors annually through rotating exhibitions, educational programs, and public events.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture will promote this project through a coordinated marketing strategy that prioritizes community reach and accessibility. Outreach will include targeted email campaigns to members, donors, educators, and community partners; organic and paid social media across key platforms; and listings in regional arts and cultural calendars.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture will use Roberts Foundation funding to support the development and delivery of its America 250 exhibition and related public programming, ensuring high-quality interpretation and broad community access. Funds will be applied to exhibition planning and installation, administration, curatorial research, object preparation, and interpretive materials that center on African American perspectives within the national America 250 narrative.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

Roberts Foundation support will be formally recognized by the Amistad Center for Art and Culture across multiple platforms connected to the America 250 exhibition and related programming. Recognition will include acknowledgment on exhibition signage, printed program materials, and digital communications such as email newsletters and social media posts.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

The Amistad Center for Art and Culture defines artistic excellence as work that demonstrates exceptional creative quality, historical and cultural integrity, and meaningful impact on audiences and communities. Excellence is reflected in art and scholarship that are rigorously researched, thoughtfully interpreted, and rooted in the lived experiences and contributions of people of African descent.

Artistic excellence at the Center also prioritizes relevance and accessibility. It values artists, curators, and cultural practitioners whose work expands understanding of American history and culture, invites critical dialogue, and connects past and present in ways that resonate with diverse audiences.

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

This project aligns with the definition of artistic excellence by presenting rigorously researched, thoughtfully curated content that centers African American perspectives within the America 250 framework. The exhibition and related programs draw from high-quality works, historical scholarship, and interpretive practices that illuminate the cultural, artistic, and civic contributions of people of African descent while fostering critical dialogue and public engagement.

The project advances the mission of the Amistad Center for Art and Culture by honoring, preserving, and interpreting African American art and history in ways that are accessible, relevant, and community-centered. Through free or low-cost exhibitions, educational programming, and public conversations, the Center broadens access to cultural resources, deepens understanding of American history, and strengthens community connection during the America 250 commemoration.

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

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At a time when many cultural institutions are operating in an increasingly challenging and, at times, hostile environment for inclusive storytelling, this project offers a vital space for learning, reflection, and connection. By centering African American perspectives within the America 250 commemoration, the exhibition provides audiences with a fuller and more honest understanding of American history, one that acknowledges complexity, resilience, and shared responsibility. The community will benefit from free or low-cost access to exhibitions and programs that invite open dialogue, intergenerational learning, and civic reflection. In a moment when arts and cultural organizations face increased pressure and uncertainty, this project reinforces the essential role cultural institutions play in supporting democratic values, community trust, and a sense of belonging.

How will this project be evaluated?

The project will be evaluated using a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures to assess reach, engagement, and impact. Quantitative data will include attendance figures, program participation, school and community group engagement, and demographic information when available. These metrics will help assess access, audience growth, and geographic reach. Qualitative evaluation will include audience surveys, educator and partner feedback, facilitated discussions, and informal visitor responses that capture learning outcomes, relevance, and overall experience. Staff will also conduct internal reviews to assess program quality, operational effectiveness, and alignment with mission goals. Evaluation findings will be used to refine future exhibitions and programming, strengthen community engagement strategies, and inform ongoing planning and fundraising.

Cover letter

- [2025-Executive-Letter-Roberts-Foundation-Excellence-in-the-Arts.pdf](#)

Board list

- https://therobertsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-abf218a5fe6d603e8fb0dd22ddf573c5/2026/02/Board-of-Trustees—Amistad-Center.pdf

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [501c3-letter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [TAC-FY-2024-Form-990-Public-Disclosure-Copy.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [TAC-FY25-Final-Budget-Summary.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [TAC-FY26-Final-Budget-Summary.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [TAC-Balance-Sheet-12.31.25.pdf](#)

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 548**Project budget**

- [Budget.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?

No

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

No

Grant Report

- [The-Amistad-Center-for-Art-and-Culture-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