a uniquely challenging year...

...so many unknowns

the most challenging of times...

...suddenly forced to adjust to new challenges in 2020

...helping us safely present our concerts

able to pivot to a virtual festival and continue supporting artists...

...even more apparent how crucial Roberts’ support is
The pandemic created so many unknowns and much insecurity for arts organizations. The Roberts Foundation was flexible and supportive in helping their grantees navigate this changing and virtualizing world.

Rich Hollant, Principal and Design Director
Free Center

As we all were suddenly forced to adjust to new challenges in 2020, one thing stayed the same: the support of the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation. With all of our revenue generating activities cancelled, the support from the Roberts Foundation was absolutely critical to our ability to provide much needed and greatly appreciated virtual-theatre experiences to our community throughout the year.

Geoffrey Sheehan, Artistic Associate
Capital Classics Theatre Company.

In these unique and difficult times for artists, the support from the Roberts Foundation was essential to our program. Not only were we able to give a sense of normalcy to our students and community but we were also able to support our guest choreographers as working artists. Being able to both create and share dance during the pandemic was not only healing but a lesson for all of us in how the arts continue to move us forward, no matter the obstacles.

Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury,
Dance Department Chair
Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts
Half Day Program.
2020 GRANTS

Excellence in the Arts Program Grants

The Artists Collective $10,000 *
Funding to support the 2020 Jackie McLean Memorial Celebration

Ballet Theatre Company $6,500 *
Funding to support Aladdin

Capital Classics, Inc. $8,000 *
Funding to support the annual Shakespeare Festival and production of As You Like It

Charter Oak Cultural Center $8,000 *
Funding to support two children’s theater productions

The Children’s Museum $6,000
Funding to support Cellobration!

Connecticut Chopin Competition $6,000**
Funding to support the 12th Annual Chopin International Piano Competition

Connecticut Choral Artists Inc. $6,000 *
Funding to support the 2020/2021 Main Stage Concert Series

Connecticut Guitar Society $5,500**
Funding to support the 2020/2021 Women & Their Guitars Concert Series

Connecticut Historical Society $3,600
Funding to support the ofrenda video for Dia de los Muertos

Connecticut Summerfest $5,000**
Funding to support the International Contemporary Ensemble Residency

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra $10,000**
Funding to support the 2020/2021 Concert & Opera Performance Season

CREC/Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts $5,000**
Funding to support the 2020 Choreographers’ Showcase

The support of the Roberts Foundation could not have been more critical than during the current pandemic. Joining thousands of other performers and presenters throughout the world whose intentions were sidelined by the pandemic, we had to postpone our 2020 Messiah performance, and the Roberts Foundation most thoughtfully permitted us to apply the current grant to our next intended performance in December of 2021. Having the support of the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation available for our anticipated production of Messiah as we come out of this pandemic has helped us to keep Hartford Chorale viable and strong. With this concert, we look forward to celebrating and rejoicing together and we could not have done this without your support.

Richard Coffey, Music Director
The Hartford Chorale

This was a uniquely challenging year for artists and arts presenters. The Roberts Foundation gave essential support at a critical time, the Hartford area is so tremendously fortunate to have his foundation here.

Steven Raider Ginsburg,
former Director, Autorino Center for the Arts,
University of Saint Joseph

The 2020/21 Robert’s Foundation support has allowed Hartford Stage to not only survive throughout this difficult year, but to give our organization an incredible opportunity to look forward to the years ahead with the support of the Joyce C. Willis Fund.

Cynthia Rider, Managing Director
Hartford Stage Company
Connecticut Summerfest is very grateful to have received a grant from the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation. Thanks to your generosity, in a year when many performing arts organizations had to close their doors, Connecticut Summerfest was able to pivot to a virtual festival and continue supporting artists and providing our community with new music performances.

Maria Paterno, Development Manager
Connecticut Summerfest

The Roberts Foundation has been a partner to JazzFest for many years. When our 2020 festival was in doubt, Roberts’ steadfast support allowed GHFJ to ultimately deliver its first Virtual JazzFest with great success. We express our gratitude to you.

Charles Christie, President
Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz

Working on ColorFields has provided much-needed light for all of us at JDPP in a very dark year. This project has both challenged and inspired us to push ourselves creatively, and drawn upon our improvisational abilities as artists and human beings to move into new ways of seeing, doing, and being. Funding from the Roberts Foundation has been critical; we knew we had a strong base of support that we could build upon, which gave us courage and hope.

Judy Dworin, Executive and Artistic Director
Judy Dworin Performance Project
Thanks to the Foundation’s generous support, the NBMAA was able to present a groundbreaking exhibition, Some Day is Now: Women, Art & Social Change, during the most challenging of times. The exhibition highlighted 100 years of art dedicated to voting rights, women’s rights, and social justice for all and was accompanied by dynamic programming that expanded upon these important and timely themes.

Min Jung Kim, former Director & CEO
New Britain Museum of American Art

While most art venues were shuttered due to the pandemic, the grant we received from the Roberts Foundation allowed us to not only continue to support artists with nowhere to showcase their work, but it also allowed us to enhance the community at a time when it was so badly needed. Seeing the 10 bus shelters that artists created pop-up around town last year was an inspiration to many, and we could not have done this project without support from Roberts.

Roxanne Stachelek,
Executive Director
The West Hartford Art League

Out Film Festival
Funding to support the 2020 CT LGBTQ Film Festival
$3,000**

Rise Up Group
Funding to support the Mural at The Swift Factory
$6,500

Riverfront Recapture
Funding to support the 2020 Hartbeat Festival
$7,500**

TheaterWorks
Funding to support the production of Fun Home
$25,000**

University of St. Joseph
Funding to support Let’s Dance: A Season of Celebrating Dance & Movement
$13,500

Wadsworth Atheneum
Funding to support Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion Training
$20,000

West Hartford Art League
Funding to support Bus Shelter Murals
$8,000

Windsor Art Center
Funding to support Self Preservation: An Artist’s Self exhibition
$4,000

Capital Grants
Hill-Stead Museum
Funding to support the Bringing Art to Life Campaign
$30,000

Creation of New Work
Charter Oak Cultural Center
Funding to commission a wordless theater piece by Joni Weisfeld, Artistic Director of The Other Voice.
$15,000

Total Awarded in 2020
$382,900

* Funds converted to operating or alternate programming
** Proposed programming presented digitally
In a year that has been difficult for museums across the nation, the Wadsworth Atheneum has been extraordinarily fortunate to have the support of the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation as we chart a course to become a more diverse, equitable, accessible and inclusive organization. Committing ourselves to these values is vital to achieving our mission of inspiring visitors of all backgrounds see themselves in our programs, exhibitions and collections and to experience and appreciate art and culture.

Jeffrey N. Brown, Interim Director and CEO
Wadsworth Atheneum

In 2020, when ALL of the artists Night Fall collaborates with lost ALL of their opportunities to work as artists, The Roberts Foundation enabled us to have a performance, pay artists to create work and give the world something inspiring when we needed it most.

Anne Cubberly, Artistic Director
Night Fall

The Roberts Foundation, through its consistent support of Connecticut Guitar Society played an indispensable role this past year in helping us safely present our concerts through video streaming. On behalf of our Board of Directors, members and artists, I want to thank you for the essential work you do supporting the arts, and in particular for recognizing the critical value of keeping that connection intact and active when it was needed the most.

Paul Omichinski, Board President
CT Guitar Society

**Creation of New Work**

Established in 2003, the Foundation’s Creation of New Work Initiative seeks to foster creativity in Greater Hartford by supporting the collaboration of local artists and arts organizations.

For 2020, The Roberts Foundation made a few changes to its Creation of New Work Initiative. In honor of “The Year of the Woman,” the foundation elected to focus entries on a collaboration between an arts organization and a woman artist or artists. This collaboration would result in a visual art piece that celebrated women, women in the arts, women in history or women of significance from the Capitol Region.

At its December, 2020 meeting, the board approved a grant to Hartford Public Library to commission a sculpture by Marilyn Parkinson Thrall. Thrall’s piece will celebrate Hartford’s Suffragist movement in 1920.

For 2021, The Roberts Foundation will consider Performing Arts submissions. Applications are due September 3, 2021.

**Grants Outlook**

At its December 2020 meeting, the Board set a 2021 grants budget of $400,000 which reflects the projected performance of the foundation’s assets during 2021.

In addition to its traditional grants budget, the foundation approved a budget of $200,000 to support the Joyce C. Willis Fund for Excellence and Equity in the Arts.
In December of 2020 the Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation announced a major initiative to support excellence and equity in the arts with gifts to The Amistad Center for Art & Culture, Hartford Stage, and Hartford Symphony Orchestra. The initiative is named in honor of Joyce C. Willis, a former Roberts Foundation board member, founding member and past board president of The Amistad Center, Hartford Symphony Orchestra board member and ardent supporter of Hartford Stage. Willis, who retired from The Hartford Financial Services Group as Vice President of Corporate Communications in 2005, died of COVID-19 in June.

Each organization will receive $150,000 payable over two years and may apply for additional funding to implement ancillary programming. The Amistad Center will establish a residency for an emerging or mid-career Black artist to create a new body of work. The residency will culminate in a major exhibition in 2022. Hartford Stage will contract a Black Artist for a two-year residency who will work with other artists of color to create a production for the theater’s main stage each year. Hartford Symphony will inaugurate both an Educational Diversity Fellowship for student musicians of color and engage a Black musician to join the orchestra. The three grant recipients plan to launch their respective initiatives in 2021 and 2022.

It is our hope that The Joyce C. Willis Fund will not only serve as catalyst to help Black artists excel in their careers, but also will encourage other organizations to examine their efforts to promote racial equity in the arts. We hope this initiative is the first step in encouraging local nonprofits embrace cultural change and increase their investment in artists of color.”
Financial Statements

Statements of Support, Revenue, Expenses, and Other Changes in Net Assets, Modified Cash Basis

For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes in operating net assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; dividends</td>
<td>$ 258,446</td>
<td>$ 242,070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net realized &amp; unrealized gains/(loss) on securities</td>
<td>818,494</td>
<td>1,263,985</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less investment and custodial fees</strong></td>
<td>(41,614)</td>
<td>(51,295)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net revenues and (losses)</strong></td>
<td>$ 1,035,326</td>
<td>$ 1,454,760</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>390,400</td>
<td>364,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>61,073</td>
<td>71,228</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 451,473</td>
<td>$ 435,828</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in net assets</strong></td>
<td>583,853</td>
<td>1,018,932</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, beginning of the year</strong></td>
<td>7,821,661</td>
<td>6,802,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, end of the year</strong></td>
<td>$ 8,405,514</td>
<td>$ 7,821,661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation’s commitment to our vibrant museum underscores Hill-Stead’s unwavering devotion to excellence in the arts. The Roberts Foundation’s leading support was an early vote of confidence in our capital campaign, and paved the way for other funders. Further, the Foundation’s additional contribution, to support research for Hill-Stead’s inaugural exhibition in its new art gallery, resulted in groundbreaking discoveries. This exhibition will present, together for the first time, the artworks of the Pope family’s original collection and, thanks to the Roberts Foundation gift, we have identified important Impressionist works formerly owned by the Popes and previously unbeknownst to us!

Dr. Anna Swinbourne
Executive Director and CEO
Hill-Stead Museum
This year’s grant from the Roberts Foundation allowed us to bring some joy and activity into the lives of Hartford students who were learning remotely. Teachers said they used our online arts education programs to engage their students, give them something enjoyable to do and help them learn a classroom subject. At the same time, the grant provided funding to pay our teaching artists of color in what was otherwise a very lean year for them.

Rie Porier Campbell, Executive Director
Hartford Performs

2020 was a very challenging year full of change, but the funding from The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation was instrumental in helping us to transform the 33rd annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival into a fully ‘virtual’ festival, with some special, socially-distanced drive-in events. We were able to celebrate the art of filmmaking and the richness of LGBTQ lives by streaming films directly into our audience’s homes, and we were able to bring unique perspectives alive through Q&A sessions with filmmakers and actors from around the world.

Shane Engstrom, Director
Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival

We are so appreciative that when we were forced by the pandemic to make the difficult decision to postpone our 2020 opera festival, Roberts Foundation allowed us to hold on to the funds for this coming year. That really made it feel like there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you for believing not only in Hartford Opera Theater, but in the importance of the arts in Hartford!

Lisabeth Miller, Artistic Director
Hartford Opera Theater

Through the support of the Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation, Ballet Theatre Company was able to get through our toughest year to date in more than 22 years. Funding allowed BTC to pivoting its performance season to a digital platform and tour a costume exhibition through collaborations with other Greater Hartford arts organizations struggling through the pandemic."

Stephanie Dattellas, Artistic Director
Ballet Theatre Company

The Day of the Dead Virtual Ofrenda Project provided an exceptional way for the community to come together to celebrate the lives of their departed loved ones during COVID-19, while staying socially distanced. Talented local artists brought the ofrenda to life visually and musically. The Connecticut Historical Society is grateful for the Roberts Foundation’s generous funding, which created this important opportunity to connect with our community, and to help people across the region to connect with one another.

Robert A. Kret, Executive Director & C.E.O.
Hartford Historical Society

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The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation is a private, special purpose foundation founded in 1964 by Ned and Sunny Roberts. In accordance with its founders’ wishes, the foundation is dedicated to supporting and encouraging excellence in the arts throughout the Capital Region. Since its establishment, the foundation has awarded more than $10 million to nearly 200 area non-profit organizations. More information is available at www.therobertsfoundation.org

Guidelines and information about the application process are available on our website at therobertsfoundation.org. Please see our website for a history of the Foundation and listings of past grants.

“an incredible opportunity to look forward to the years ahead...”