

Strategies for Funding and Expanding Creative Community Work

November 1, 2023

Webinar Chat Highlights

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[ECP Funding Ask Tips for Communicators](#)

[Community Based Project Video Project documentation of *Try Together Fly Together*](#)

[City Interview about Quality of Place projects](#)

[Blink BRIGHT Ride 2022](#)

[USDA RPN \(rural.gov\)](#)

[ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations Dashboard](#)

[ARPA By state](#)

[ARPA By Metropolitan City](#)

[U.S. Digital Response](#)

[Covington's Shotgun Houses](#)

[Springboard for the Arts](#)

["Unicorns Unite"](#)

[Kansas Commerce](#)

[Kansas Commerce: Mural and Public Art Grant](#)

[NEA Grants for Arts Projects: Local Arts Agencies](#)

[State Arts Agencies List](#)

[USDA Rural Development](#)

[Georgia Council for the Arts](#)

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[Kansas grant resources](#)

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Some Highlights and Questions (These are a few questions and responses from various webinar attendees. Please review the webinar recording for the full Q&A)

Rural communities and small towns (under 10,000) have artists of all sorts, but no real access to local funding - and federal funds are so dang hard to get without hiring a grant writer, having matching funds, and policy restrictions.

- Rural community funding opportunities: Hotel Occupancy Taxes if available, Community Foundation in your region, United Way as Margy mentioned, foundations who are urban have designated a percentage of their funding to rural communities.
- Some State Arts Agencies have Local Arts Agency lists.
 - o Reach out to both for local arts agency.

What do you recommend when your local government is intensely understaffed/ in crisis/ has no capacity at all to partner?

- Help them...when you do 80-90% of work, your “thing” will go to the top of the pile...
- Local government member here. We are trying to engage with more local non-profits groups and help artists connect visions with what the Town/ residents want.

I understand the importance of connecting projects to economic development. Are there "major players" that are more prone to want to help out artistic endeavors?

- I usually look at my competitor’s annual reports & donor page to see who I should pitch to.
- Don’t forget there are many levels/options. City, state, and local and regional government entities. Hopefully one of those entities can partner!
- YES to libraries - they oftentimes serve as a community hub to rural communities and can help make introductions to funders!

Any idea why so much grant money is available for murals rather than other forms of art?

- Murals are such an easily understood and tangible art form, so it's "easy" to do.
- I think murals are often just the first/most visible way to engage in the arts that a community can think of. Our office requires meaningful community engagement for mural funding.
- The mural is the product; but doesn't need to be the "project" — the "project" can be about so much more than painting a mural — it can be about giving voice, connecting people, building power...

Does anyone know what responsibilities/resources Chamber of Commerce has in art development?

- Chambers of Commerce are great ways to meet for-profit business members that may need art-related services. I have used it to build relationships in different sectors.
- There's a lot of advocacy and camaraderie in these spaces, too.

Idea for support: Ask a few colleagues from outside your organization to be in a small monthly (?) support group focusing on fundraising efforts...with a focus on the emotional impacts of that work rather than a skills exchange. Thinking that many of us who have applied for a gazillion grants over the years might be a bit worn down and could use a place to share our experiences rather than information, tips, or advice.