



CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

Submissions must be received by 4:00 pm on May 17, 2024

Background

Nonprofit organizations that integrate arts education with the principles of youth development—a practice commonly referred to as creative youth development—can have a profound impact on the young people they serve. Creative youth development programs help young people build skills for success in school, work, and life by helping them express themselves, take creative risks in a supportive environment, and develop relationships with peers and caring adults.

The New York Community Trust’s Arts Education and Youth Development grants programs request letters of interest (LOI) from creative youth development programs for young people ages 5 to 24. The Trust is a public charity and New York City’s largest community foundation. It connects generous people and institutions with high-impact nonprofits making the city, Westchester, and Long Island better places for all. It builds stronger communities, influences public policy, fosters innovation, improves lives, and protects our environment.

Funding Priorities

Organizations focused on providing opportunities for young people to generate artistic work and located in low-income communities that otherwise have limited access to creative youth development opportunities will receive highest priority. The Trust also will prioritize projects that:

- work with young people consistently over a period of at least several months;
- have the potential to serve substantial numbers of young people;
- are artistically rigorous and set high expectations for participants;
- are open to young people of all levels of talent, skill, and interest;
- fuel young people's creative interests while building critical learning and social skills;
- give young people opportunities to share their artistry with their communities;
- provide a range of support in addition to arts instruction, such as academic assistance, mental health counseling, case management; and
- provide participants with opportunities to engage in work-based learning and/or take on leadership roles within the organization.

The Trust does make grants for general operating support. Activities should take place during the academic year but outside of school hours; grants will not support standalone summer programs.

Opportunity

Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year for up to two years, depending on the scope and scale of the proposed project. (Additional funding may be available for projects that primarily serve girls, young women, and gender-expansive youth.) Eligible organizations must be located in and serve New York City and have an annual operating budget of at least \$250,000. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or have a 501(c)(3) as a funds administrator.

LOI Requirements

The deadline to submit letters of interest is Friday, **May 17, 2024**. Letters must be submitted electronically by 4:00 pm through The New York Community Trust's grants portal. Letters should contain:

1. A **narrative** that is no more than 3 pages in length and includes information about:
 - a. your organization, mission, and overall programming;
 - b. the project, including the number of young people to be served, number of weeks and hours per week of instruction to be provided to participants;
 - c. what participants in the program will do and learn; and
 - d. how the program will contribute to participants' social-emotional development.
2. A one-year **project budget** that identifies the total cost of the project, including itemized personnel, non-personnel, and administrative costs, as well as the amount requested. If the project budget is larger than the amount requested, please list other sources of funding for the project (noting which sources are already confirmed and which are projected).

Submission Instructions

Step One: Prepare your letter of interest and budget (items 1 and 2 listed above) and combine them into a single PDF no larger than 25 MB in size, using the file name format: "Organization Name.pdf."

Step Two: Go to The Trust's [Grants Portal](#) and under "Available LOIs," click on the "Apply" link next to the [Creative Youth Development Programs LOI](#).

Step Three: Complete the LOI profile and upload your single PDF.

Applicants will be notified by email of the project described in the LOI is of interest to The Trust, and then will be asked to submit additional information. This is a competitive initiative; not all worthy projects will be funded. Grants will be announced in October 2024.

Please direct questions about the LOI to Roderick Jenkins, Program Director, Promising Futures, rvj@nyct-cfi.org; and Leigh Ross, Program Officer, Girls & Young Women, Early Childhood Education, and Arts Education, lcr@nyct-cfi.org. For help navigating The Trust's grants portal, please contact Melanie DeLorenzo, Grants Manager, mdl@nyct-cfi.org.

Please note The Trust's communications about the result of your submission will be by email, whether notification of a decline or grant. Please add noreply@nycommunitytrust.org to your address book so important communications do not get caught in spam filters.