

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

CRNY Case Study

for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Kansas City, MO

CREATIVES
REBUILD
NEW YORK

Guaranteed
Income
for Artists



Artist
Employment
Program



Creatives Rebuild New York

- 3-year, \$125 million statewide initiative, funded by private philanthropy
- Guaranteed Income for 2,400 artists
- Artist Employment and benefits for 300 artists in collaboration with over 100 community-based organizations
- Both programs co-designed with CRNY Think Tank
- Sustainability via Impact and Narrative Change efforts

Creatives Rebuild New York

Values

- Equity for structurally marginalized and excluded groups
- Humanity of artists
- Artists are workers
- Trust-based framework
- Worker solidarity

Commitment to Outreach

- Focus on reaching those who don't typically apply
- Outreach Corps comprised of artist organizers
- Information Sessions
- Prioritizing access

CREATIVES
REBUILD
NEW YORK

Guaranteed Income for Artists



CRNY's Guaranteed Income Program provides 2,400 artists with monthly, no-strings attached, cash payments of \$1,000 for 18 months.

Who is it designed to support?

Eligibility

- Primary residence in New York State at the time of application
- Have financial need (as determined by the Self-Sufficiency Standard)
- Be an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker

Selection

- Randomized process (not merit based)
- Prioritizing people who come from communities that face structural barriers to financial security

CREATIVES
REBUILD
NEW YORK



Artist
Employment
Program



WHAT IS THE ARTIST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM?

CRNY's Artist Employment Program funds 2 years of employment at \$65k/year plus benefits for 300 artists working in collaboration with community-based organizations across New York State.

Range of Collaborations

- Tiny volunteer-run cultural organizations to statewide advocacy organizations
- Work across sectors: from health and housing to racial equity, immigration, and beyond
- Over 1/3 of the collaborations involve non-arts organizations
- Geographic contexts range from urban, rural, to cross-region

2012-2014: It Takes A Village



CRNY x Tribeworks

- 163 of 300 artists have their W2 employment via Tribeworks, a worker cooperative
 - Smaller, community-based orgs that *cannot* provide W2 payroll & benefits are able to participate in AEP
- Shifting the balance of power between artists and organizations
- Bringing artists into the solidarity economy



CREATIVES
REBUILD
NEW YORK

Impact and Narrative Change



Impact & Narrative Change

1. Implementation Evaluations

- Best practices / program models developed in collaboration with peer learning communities

2. Impact Evaluations

- Impact of GI and AEP on artists' lives, artists' practices, organizations, and communities

3. Narrative Change

- Artists understand what guaranteed income / universal basic income is
- Artists' lives and practices are better understood
- Artists' labor is seen as essential to society

4. Advocacy

- Artists and organizations become advocates for new structures and policies that support artists' labor

IMPACT AND NARRATIVE CHANGE

Portrait of New York State Artists

Forty-six question survey for individual artists:

- Artistic Practice
- Financial Circumstances
- Well-being
- Pandemic Experience
- Policy and Advocacy Involvement
- Geographic Information
- Demographic Information

Portrait of New York State Artists

Respondents

- Over 12,000 responses collected via Submittable and SurveyMonkey
- 97% of respondents were applicants, 1% ineligible applicants, 2% other artists

How We'll Use the Data

- Important baseline information as we begin to look at impact of GI and AEP funding on participating artists
- Tool for statewide and/or national research and policy efforts
- Share the survey and data with other NYS institutions to use beyond CRNY's tenure

Thank you!

Bella Desai

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Artist Employment Program

bella@creativesrebuildny.org