



NEW JERSEY

# ARTS & CULTURE

RENEWAL FUND

Hosted by The Princeton Area Community Foundation

# IMPACT REPORT 2023



**The Fund is building bridges between communities and bringing our equitable practice to life.**



Dear Friends,

The New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund continues to strengthen cultural and history organizations across New Jersey. The Fund had a transformative year, reaching significant milestones while continuing its core grantmaking activities. Through its grantmaking and community-building, the Fund has become an important state-wide advocate for cultural equity.

**In 2023, the Renewal Fund awarded \$2.1 million in grants, with an average grant size of \$23,000.** Since its inception, the New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund has awarded a total of \$8.8 million in unrestricted grants. For the 205 smaller and medium-sized organizations who have received grants, this flexible funding is a stabilizing lifeline.

**After three and a half years, the New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund is deepening engagement with its grantees and building a network to foster peer-to-peer relationships across the state.** The Fund is building bridges between communities and bringing our equitable practice to life. As a catalyst for sustainable change, we recognize that we will need a coalition of support to build upon our progress. We invite you to collaborate with us as we forge new pathways for cultural revitalization across New Jersey.

**We are grateful for your continued support to enable this vital work to continue.**



Sincerely,

**Lynne Toyne**  
Executive Director  
New Jersey Arts and  
Culture Renewal Fund

**Jeremy Grunin**  
Co-Chair  
New Jersey Arts and  
Culture Renewal Fund

**Sharnita C. Johnson**  
Co-Chair  
New Jersey Arts and  
Culture Renewal Fund



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



*“On behalf of the Board of Directors, artists, volunteers, and staff at Camden Repertory Theater, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you and the Renewal Fund for the support of our general operations. This investment in our work will help stabilize and position our work to grow exponentially, advancing both our mission and impact across the state. We look forward to continuing our work with you to see New Jersey’s arts and culture sector thrive.”*

– Desi Shelton, Founding Artistic Director  
Camden Repertory Theater



*“Newark Arts is incredibly thankful for the generosity of New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund! This intermediary grant to award grants to our creative community will have a real-life impact on numerous deserving and diverse arts and culture workers in the city of Newark who have struggled to maintain and sustain their artistic businesses and practices since the pandemic. It will also greatly assist Newark Arts in its continued mission to power the arts to change lives. Thank you!”*

– Lauren Craig, Executive Director  
Newark Arts



*“Funding scholarships for students in our Trenton program has a significant impact on our long-term investment to correct the under-representation of low-income BIPOC students in high-level string education programs. We will continue to work to close this gap.”*

– Sherri Anderson,  
Director, Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra  
Stretto Youth Orchestra





# OUR REACH

*“Partnerships with NJ Arts and Culture Renewal Fund grantees help to deepen our impact in the community. As the fiscal sponsor and founding member of the El Sistema NJ Alliance — the only statewide network of El Sistema-inspired programs in the U.S. — we at the New Jersey Symphony are proud to continue our decades-long commitment to supporting the next generation of leaders, musicians, and global citizens. Our Youth Orchestra, in which many Alliance students have participated, was founded in 1990 with the mission of providing access and ensemble opportunities for young musicians from all walks of life, particularly Black and Latino players from the largest urban areas of the state.”*

– Marshall Jones Kumahor  
NJ Symphony



*“We are very thankful for the grant award from the Fund to the Jersey City Theater Center (JCTC). This grant will contribute significantly to the sustainability of JCTC. It will help us continue to serve our diverse community with arts programming rooted in exploring how we can contribute to building more peaceful and just communities together through the arts. Your commitment to fostering the arts in New Jersey does not go unnoticed, and we deeply appreciate the Fund’s dedication to making a difference.”*

– Olga Levina, Executive Producer  
Jersey City Theater Center



*“History organizations, even small ones, have the power to effect structural change through a cultural shift embodied by our interpretive practices. Institution by institution we can enrich, broaden, deepen our understating of history, art history and the arts. Conversations like today’s are critical to building a network that informs our thinking around the issues of the formation of culture and its impacts. This will broaden public history practice, which will deepen our understanding.”*

– Patricia Pongracz, Director  
Macculloch Hall Historical Museum





**96**

Grants Awarded in 2023

**\$2,175,000**

in Grants Awarded in 2023

**50%**

More than half of grant dollars have been awarded to organizations whose leaders self-identify as BIPOC-led

**16**

Museums Awarded Grants since 2020

**1**

In-Person Grantee Convening

**\$8.8 Million**

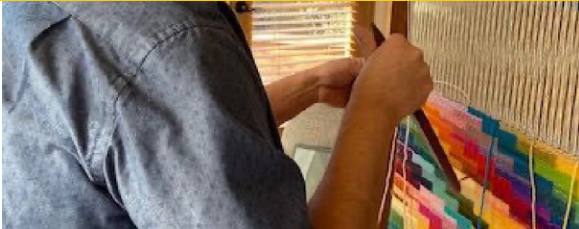
in Grants Awarded since 2020

**205**

Organizations Awarded Grants since 2020

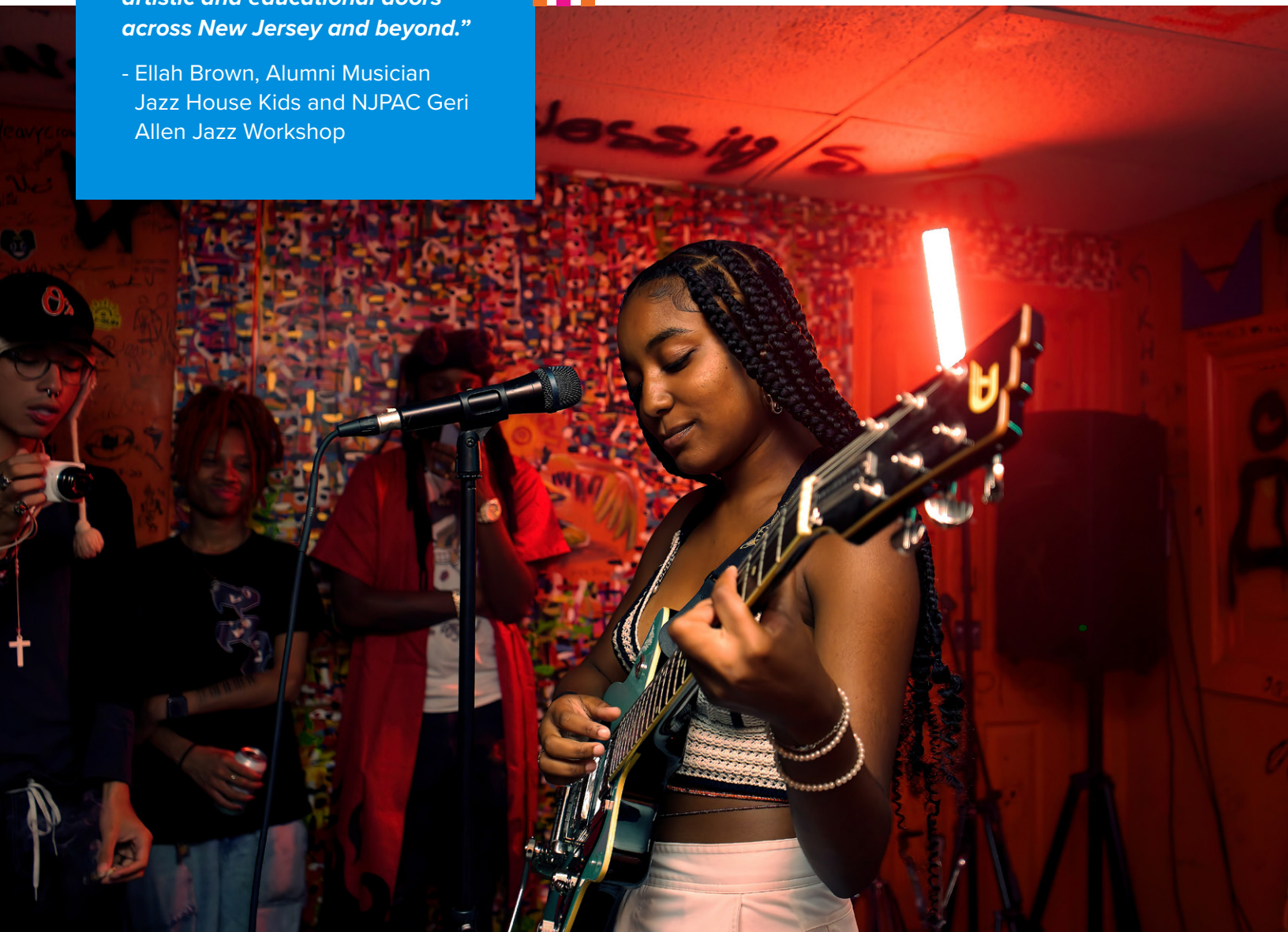
# OUR IMPACT

For the first two years of its existence, the New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund has focused on core grantmaking activities to address pandemic relief and address inequities in the sector. In recognition of long-standing disparities in funding, the New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund is creating a more equitable sector by prioritizing organizations serving and/or led by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) in New Jersey. This practice is intentional and has resulted in supporting organizations currently and historically affected by systemic injustice.



*“I grew up in a musical family and started playing the guitar at age 6. Music education programs at my school and in the community nurtured my development as a musician and helped me grow into the person I am today. The connections and growth I have experienced through music have built my confidence, connected me with mentors, and opened artistic and educational doors across New Jersey and beyond.”*

- Ellah Brown, Alumni Musician  
Jazz House Kids and NJPAC Geri  
Allen Jazz Workshop



Through our work, we intend to address gaps in our cultural landscape and draw inspiration, wisdom and understanding from the many organizations that make up the rich and vibrant fabric of the New Jersey arts and culture sector.



## OUR PROGRESS

*“Stretto Youth Orchestra has not only provided my family with the finances needed to attend lessons and pay for instruments, but has also provided a sense of community. My children have been a part of Stretto for 12 years so far and I have seen how their friendships have blossomed into life-long relationships.”*

- Deont Young, Parent

In the time since our inception, the New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund has made great strides in deepening engagement in under-resourced areas of the state by prioritizing organizations serving and/or led by Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) in New Jersey.

The Fund held its first convening in Camden, New Jersey in October of 2023. A group of over 100 artists, arts administrators, and community stakeholders gathered to discuss important issues and challenges in the cultural sector.



*“I am so grateful to the New Jersey Symphony for the opportunity to work with students from their El Sistema NJ Alliance (ESNJA) partner organizations — Paterson Music Project, United Children Music Project, and Trenton Music Makers. In our masterclass, we heard a wide variety of repertoire performed by chamber groups from each program. I was really impressed and inspired by the talent and enthusiasm the students displayed, and I think we all learned a lot from each other! I look forward to returning to work with even more of the bright young musicians whom the New Jersey Symphony spotlights and supports.”*

– Randall Goosby, Violinist

# GRANTEES SINCE 2020

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL NEW JERSEY ARTS AND CULTURE RENEWAL FUND GRANTEES

### ATLANTIC COUNTY

Atlantic City Arts Foundation  
Atlantic City Ballet  
Bay Atlantic Symphony  
Chicken Bone Beach Historical  
Foundation Inc  
Eagle Theatre  
Inlet Public Private Association Inc,  
dba Absecon Lighthouse  
South Jersey Cultural Alliance  
MudGirls Studios

### BERGEN COUNTY

Adelphi Chamber Orchestra  
Arts Horizons  
CavanKerry Press  
Center for Modern Dance Education  
Epitome of Soul  
MarbleJam Kids Inc.  
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Inc.  
The Art School at Old Church

### BURLINGTON COUNTY

Alice Paul Institute  
ArtPride New Jersey  
Moorestown Theater Company  
Perkins Center for the Arts  
Roebling Museum  
West Jersey Music Academy  
Whitesbog Preservation Trust

### CAMDEN COUNTY

Camden County Historical Society  
Camden FireWorks  
Camden Repertory Theater  
Community Development  
IDEA Center for the Arts  
Lawnside Historical Society, Inc  
Mainstage Center for the Arts  
Mighty Writers  
Ritz Theatre Company  
Superior Arts Institute  
Symphony in C  
The Nick Virgilio Haiku Association

### CAPE MAY COUNTY

Cape May Stage  
Center for Community Arts, Inc.  
Greater Cape May Historical Society  
Harriet Tubman Museum  
Historic Cold Spring Village  
Foundation  
Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Bayshore Center at Bivalve  
Levoy Theatre Preservation Society  
Millville Development Corporation  
Millville Army Airfield Museum  
Riverfront Renaissance Center  
for the Arts  
Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center

### ESSEX COUNTY

Apex Orchestra  
Arts Ed Newark  
Arts for Kids  
ArtsPower  
Barat Foundation  
Friends of Yogi  
Gallery Aferro  
GlassRoots  
Ivy Hill Valisburg Center for Arts  
Culture and Community Activism  
Jazz House Kids  
Keys 2 Success  
Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District  
Luna Stage  
Lydia Johnson Dance  
Montclair Art Museum  
Montclair Film  
Montclair History Center  
Music Beyond Measure  
Newark Arts  
Newark Boys Chorus School  
Newark Performing Arts Corporation  
Newark Print Shop  
Newark Public Radio  
Newark School of the Arts  
New Jersey Historical Society

Project for Empty Space  
Pushcart Players  
Redhawk Indigenous Arts Council  
Sharron Miller's Academy for the  
Performing Arts  
South Orange Performing Arts Center  
Studio Montclair Gallery  
Talking Eyes Media  
The New Jersey Play Lab  
Trilogy: An Opera Company  
University of Orange  
ValleyArts  
Vanguard Theater Company  
West Orange Arts Council  
Yendor Productions

### GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Gloucester County Historical Society,  
Woodbury

### HUDSON COUNTY

Ariel Rivka Dance  
Art House Productions  
Educational Arts Team  
Hoboken Historical Museum  
Hudson Theatre Works  
Jersey City Arts Council  
Jersey City Theater Center  
Kennedy Dancers  
Mile Square Theatre  
Nimbus Dance  
RiverviewJazz.org  
Speranza Theatre Company  
Surati for Performing Arts  
The Grace Theatre Workshop  
Thomas A. Edison Media Arts  
Consortium  
Union City Music Project  
Victory Hall Inc.

### HUNTERDON COUNTY

ACME Screening Room  
Hunterdon Art Museum  
Roxey Ballet Company



# GRANTEES SINCE 2020

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL NEW JERSEY ARTS AND CULTURE RENEWAL FUND GRANTEES

(Continued)

### MERCER COUNTY

Art Against Racism A NJ Nonprofit  
Arts Council of Princeton  
Artworks Trenton Inc.  
Capital Singers of Trenton  
Conservatory of Music and Performing  
Arts Society  
Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra  
Historic Morven  
Historical Society of Princeton  
Hopewell Valley Arts Council  
James R Halsey Foundation of the Arts  
New Jersey Capital Philharmonic  
Old Barracks Association  
Passage Theatre Company  
People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos  
Princeton Symphony Orchestra  
Preservation New Jersey  
Princeton Ballet Society  
Sixth Regiment of the US Colored  
Troops Civil War Re-actors  
Storytelling Arts  
Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra  
The Princeton Festival  
Trent House Association  
Trenton Children's Chorus  
Trenton Circus Squad  
Trenton Museum Society  
Trenton Music Makers  
West Windsor Arts Center  
Westrick Music Academy  
Young Audiences New Jersey &  
Eastern Pennsylvania

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY

American Theater Group  
coLAB Arts  
Crossroads Theatre Company  
Dance New Jersey  
George Street Playhouse  
Hub City Jazz Festival  
Lazos America Unida  
Lost Souls Public Memorial Project Inc  
Raices Cultural Center

### MONMOUTH COUNTY

Algonquin Arts Theatre  
Allaire Village  
Asbury Park Arts Council  
Asbury Park Music Foundation  
Axelrod Performing Arts Center  
Holiday Express  
Holmdel Theatre Company  
Jazz Arts Project  
Middletown Township Cultural & Arts  
Council  
Monmouth Arts  
Monmouth County Historical  
Association  
Monmouth Museum  
New Jersey Repertory Company  
New Jersey Theatre Alliance  
Ocean Grove Historic Preservation  
Phoenix Productions  
Rockit Live Foundation  
The Garden State Film Festival  
T. Thomas Fortune Foundation  
Twin Lights Historical Society

### MORRIS COUNTY

Art in the Atrium  
ARTS By The People  
Macculloch Hall Historical Museum  
Morris Arts  
Museum of Early Trades & Crafts  
New Jersey Ballet Company  
Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms  
The Growing Stage Theatre for  
Young Audiences  
The Shakespeare Theatre of  
New Jersey

### OCEAN COUNTY

Barnegat Bay Decoy & Baymen's  
Museum  
Brick Children's Community Theatre  
Exit 82 Theatre Company  
John F Peto Studio Museum  
Surflight Theatre

### PASSAIC COUNTY

Botto House American Labor Museum  
Hamilton Partnership for Paterson  
Inner City Ensemble

### SALEM COUNTY

Appel Farm Arts & Music Center

### SOMERSET COUNTY

All Children's Art Center of NJ  
Arts Ed NJ  
Frontline Arts  
League of Historical Societies of NJ  
Stoutsburg Sourland African American  
Museum  
The Center for Contemporary Art

### SUSSEX COUNTY

Peters Valley School of Craft  
Save Ellis Island  
Sparta Historical Society Inc

### UNION COUNTY

Carolyn Dorfman Dance  
Continuo Arts Foundation  
Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre  
duCret Center of Art  
Elizabeth Youth Theater Ensemble  
Institute of Music for Children  
Merchants and Drovers Tavern  
Museum  
Music For all Seasons  
New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble  
NJ Festival Orchestra  
People Helping People  
The Theater Project  
Visual Arts Center of New Jersey  
Wharton Institute for the  
Performing Arts

### WARREN COUNTY

Blairstown Live-Arts

# Donors & Supporters

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING **GENEROUS DONORS** WHOSE SUPPORT ALLOWS US TO ADDRESS THE EVOLVING CHALLENGES FACING NEW JERSEY'S CULTURAL SECTOR.

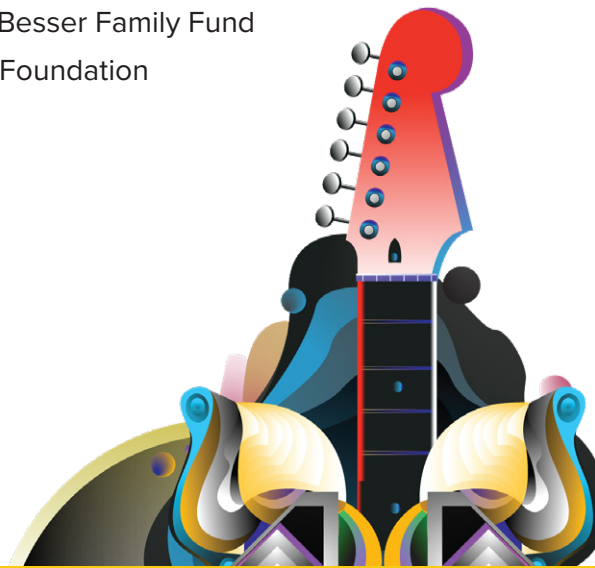
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The Richard & Jeanne Besser Family Fund  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Victoria Foundation

*As of December 31, 2023*



# Leadership Committee

Executive Director:  
**Lynne Toye**

Co-Chairs:

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Grunin Foundation

**Sharnita C. Johnson**  
Victoria Foundation

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**Chiho Feindler**  
Save The Music Foundation

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**Nina Mitchell Wells**

**Allison Tratner**

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To learn more about the New Jersey Arts and Culture Renewal Fund, including ways you can help and become involved, please contact us.

[www.njartsculture.org](http://www.njartsculture.org)

**Lynne Toye**, Executive Director  
609-219-1800  
email: [ltoye@pacf.org](mailto:ltoye@pacf.org)

**Make a gift online at: [www.njartsculture.org](http://www.njartsculture.org)**

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Attn: NJ Arts & Culture Renewal Fund  
P.O. Box 825454  
Philadelphia, PA 19182-5454

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