



July 2, 2021

Dear Municipal Leader:

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The Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut works closely with the Department of Economic and Community Development Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA). We know you are in the process of preparing your budget related to ARP funding. We are tracking commitments to the arts across our region. So far, Ridgefield is the first to make a commitment to the arts. We hope to add you to the list and that we see 100% participation in our region. Please let us know if you plan to support the arts with at least 1% of ARP funding. We will also send a quick survey in the middle of July.

We're pleased to inform you of a program the COA is developing to provide matching funds for some of the American Recovery Plan (ARP) dollars that your town commits to help rebuild your creative economy. As you are aware, the creative sector was the first to be shut down and they are among the last to fully reopen. Artists have lost work and struggling to get back on their feet. The CT Office of the Arts is proposing a state pool of \$2.5 million to create matching grants of municipal ARP funds allocated to the arts. The projected grant sizes would be a minimum of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$200,000.

State funding will help support arts-based community programs, artists services, art installations, fairs, or festivals, etc. Applications for these funds are expected to open August 1, 2021, and close September 15, 2021. Funds are expected to be awarded November 2021. More information on this program will be forthcoming. **We will forward you any information we receive, and we encourage you to participate.**

Just as a reminder, there are many ways to distribute funds to the creative community quickly, as the attached material suggests. Please know that the Cultural Alliance is a resource, your regional service organization for the arts. We are uniquely positioned to help you regrant art funds and manage programs, while working with local arts organizations and municipal commissions.

+1 203 798 0760
256 Main Street, Unit 2
Danbury, CT 06810

WWW.CAWCT.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/CAWCT
INSTAGRAM.COM/CAWCT

To discuss further or address questions, contact our Executive Director, Lisa Scails at 203-798-0760 or via email lscails@kawct.org.

Best regards,

Lew Wallace
President

Lisa M. Scails
Executive Director