



Columbia County Catalyst Grant 2023 - Grantees

CREATE Council On The Arts announces the 9 Creative Catalyst Grant 2023 recipients. Grantees were each awarded \$1,000. Grantees will present a public presentation of their work and during the next year as they develop their projects, CREATE will organize check-ins for the cohort as well as offer technical assistance for the individual artist. The first cohort includes a wide range of disciplines from photography, film, writing, visual and digital art.

ALEX DYKE - **Hudson**: Multidisciplinary poet, installation artist, performer & print-maker works with interaction of plants, dye, resin, textiles, refuse, movement, bodily fluids, text & hardware as a way to explore the life-death-life cycle of the natural world.

ALICE FALL - **Hudson**: Artist who works between medium format film, digital, and collage, inhabiting a world that is alive and full of movement, blurring the lines between the real and the imagined, the accepted and the rejected, and opening up spaces of unreality through an exploration of intimacy, identity, and vulnerability.

BRIAN BELT - **Philmont**: Graphic designer who applies their skills to visually enhance the website and Facebook page of the nonprofit mental health awareness and creative arts gallery.

CATHERINE TYC - **Hudson**: Interdisciplinary writer and artist.

JAMES AUTERY - **Ancram**: Photographer and experimental filmmaker.

MAYUKO FUJINO - **Copake**: Self-taught paper cutout and stencil artist.

MICHAEL ALERT - **Hudson**: Multifaceted artist delving into the worlds of hip hop and dancehall through photography and videography.

PAULINE DECARMO - **Hudson**: Painter who depicts actual places for their life experiences and the memories of these environments. They are representations of real-world space and depicts the idea of their psychological and emotional influence.

SERGIO RICO - **Chatham**: Filmmaker and writer.

Sponsored by the Columbia County government, the program stands out for its innovative approach to grant distribution, employing a lottery-based selection system that eliminates judging panels and expedites funding to propel projects initiated by local residents. A simple application coupled with an inclusive review process that prioritizes artistic activity and community connection over writing skills, broadens accessibility especially to those who lack time or resources to devote to traditional grant writing pursuits. To maximize impact, the program is open only to applicants within a specific income range which helps identify and ensuring the grants reaches those who need support the most.

Additionally, the program grants artists the agency to explore their chosen projects, encouraging creativity and the development of unique experiences that will be shared with the local community. This initiative

underscores that a wealth of creative work is already underway in the region, and the funding provided serves to move these projects forward. This approach aligns with the program's commitment to supporting and empowering local artists while acknowledging the diverse talents and contributions within the community.