



2025 SCR Grantees

CREATE Council on the Arts is the administrator of the Statewide Community Re-grants (SCR) Program, a regrant program in partnership with NYSCA (New York State Council on the Arts) with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

We are proud to announce that this year \$208,000 is being awarded and distributed to the 56 projects listed here across Greene, Columbia and Schoharie counties.

COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Columbia County Players Theatre, *Putting the Community Back into Community Theater* —

On several nights in August 2025, Columbia County Players will offer a free, ninety-minute production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, performed by a diverse company of players in front of diverse audiences. Local actors, stage crew and other staff — some experienced, most amateur — will represent a variety of races, ethnicities, religions, ages, genders, sexual preferences, disabilities and abilities.

Friends of Hudson Youth, *6th Annual Hudson Mad Hatters' Parade* —

The Mad Hatters' Parade is a handmade, human-powered parade of wearable art, drawing inspiration from global masquerade traditions and from Hudson's evolving history as a city of makers. Open to anyone and powered by a month of youth and community workshops, the Parade brings together the city's diverse communities in a shared celebration of ambulatory art, radical fashion, and Carnavalesque street theatre.

Hudson Film Festival, *Hudson Film Festival "Moviemaking 101" Workshop* —

Hudson Film Festival will present a film editing/crafts panel & instructional workshop for the youth of Hudson at Time & Space Limited. Participating panelists/instructors will be film professionals from Hudson Valley & from programmed films. Panelists will discuss what their jobs entail, utilizing film clips. The participants will work with instructors to create their own story boards, the basis of how a film unfolds shot by shot, which remain at TSL on display.

Valatie Community Theatre, *Support for theatrical Programming* —

In addition to other programs (music, film, comedy), Valatie Community Theatre will produce seven play productions as well as a season opening Cabaret and One Act Play Festival.

Columbia County Youth Theatre, *CCYT Children's Theatre Festival '25* —

Last year, CCYT expanded its program, tripling venues and delivering seven diverse productions, including musicals and a radio show. Highlights included broader community outreach, larger and more diverse audiences, and enhanced opportunities for students, interns, staff, and the year-round Performance Company. Positive feedback affirmed the festival's value as a cultural and educational asset. In its second year, CCYT aims to build on this success, solidifying the festival as a beloved community event that enriches the local arts scene and fosters youth creativity.

Shining Mountain Center for Peaceful Childhood, *Community Youth Drama Summer Camp* —

A two-week summer camp in Columbia County for 10 teens focused on drama and education. Students will work with the Opera Leggera from Houston TX to rehearse and perform Janusz and Stefa, a musical melodrama about the life of Dr. Janusz Korczak, a Polish educator, pediatrician, author, and children's right activist. Through acting, vocal performance, and character development, teens will learn about leadership, democracy, morality, and the power of listening to children. The camp culminates in four community performances, free to youth, offering a transformative educational experience that fosters creativity, teamwork, and social responsibility.

Roeliff Jansen Community Library, *Adventures in Music at the Roe Jan Library* —

The Roeliff Jansen Community Library will offer a series of six free concerts between April and October, at the library. Genres will range from classical, to American Songbook and Broadway tunes, to bluegrass, providing something for just about everyone.

Jazz and Classics for Change (JCFC), *Three Public Concerts* —

A central part of JCFC's work has been to offer live-music programs to seniors in assisted living facilities, young adults, and adults with special needs. In the past few years, we have identified two new and underserved audiences within Columbia County — children of incarcerated parents and students from the Hudson Public School System.

Germantown Library, *Seventh Annual Germantown Library Fiber Art Display* —

In 2025, the 7th annual fiber art display will take place at the Germantown Library. This event includes an outdoor (yarn bomb) element, where the grounds of the library feature yarn art installations made of weather-tolerant fibers, and an indoor fiber art display showcasing creations made with finer fiber materials. Both displays remain up throughout the summer months (June-August), providing abundant opportunities for community engagement.

Hudson Sloop Club, *Waterfront Wednesdays 2025* —

Waterfront Wednesdays is a lively community initiative held weekly during the summer at Henry Hudson Riverfront Park in Hudson, NY. It offers free, family-friendly programming that celebrates cultural diversity, enhances food access, and connects participants with the Hudson River. Each event includes live performances, workshops, educational exhibits, and local food vendors, along with on-water experiences like fishing lessons and boat trips. New features this year include performances by diverse cultural groups, multilingual outreach, interactive art installations, and the Upstreet Farmer's Market.

Claverack Free Library, *"Art Among the Stacks"* —

An introductory series of art classes for teens and adults designed around teaching beginner level methods for gouache painting from photographs, cyanotype collage on fabric and paper, alcohol ink art painting and acrylic painting techniques. Artist/Instructors will guide attendees in the proper use of materials as well as provide instruction technique and how to visualize and translate their concepts into finished works of art.

North Chatham Free Library, *"Literature and the Arts"* —

In 2025, the North Chatham Free Library hosts a series of varied arts programs with the theme, "Nurturing community through the arts"

Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition, *Healing Through Art* —

The Healing Through Art workshop series empowers individuals to process and heal from intergenerational trauma through creative expression. By engaging with diverse art modalities and facilitating open dialogue, we foster understanding, compassion, and stronger connections within our community.

Free Columbia, *Community Arts Workshop Series* —

This project offers a series of artistic classes and workshops on a self-determined sliding-scale with the objective of erasing financial barriers to entry in participation with arts. It's our intention that people and communities who are normally unable to access creative activity will be able to do so, and find the healing energy of engaging with the arts. In collaboration with three instructors, we will offer multiple weekly classes and multi-day workshops in the areas of ceramics, painting, and music, giving the opportunity for local marginalized communities to engage their creative selves, learn new skills, and deepen their artistic practice.

Camphill Hudson, *Theater for the Community, by the Camphill Hudson Players* —

This project offers a series of artistic classes and workshops on a self-determined sliding-scale with the objective of erasing financial barriers to entry in participation with arts. It's our intention that people and communities who are normally unable to access creative activity will be able to do so, and find the healing energy of engaging with the arts. In collaboration with three instructors, we will offer multiple weekly classes and multi-day workshops in the areas of ceramics, painting, and music, giving the

opportunity for local marginalized communities to engage their creative selves, learn new skills, and deepen their artistic practice.

Roving Actors' Repertory Ensemble, "Multiple Performing Arts Events in Underserved Eastern Columbia County" —

Roving Actor's Repertory Ensemble is teaming with Copake Grange #935 & The Claverack Free Library to provide our local underserved community a full year of quality & accessible live theater, music, and theatrical events. This will include 5 intriguing Zoom-based staged readings, 3 mainstage productions, and multiple theater & music events at local community venues.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
ARTS EDUCATION

Perfect Ten After School Inc., *Writing the World Strange* —

Writing the World Strange is a 6-week writing workshop series, designed to spark the joy of writing by looking at the world in strange, new ways. Unconfined to the classroom, we will write out in the local community about nature, food, and art. The workshop is rooted in the belief that the written arts animates the world and is designed to connect students with their sense perceptions such that they feel inspired to understand and write about the world and themselves in their own ways.

Friends of Hudson Youth, *Slam Poetry and Breakdancing with Daniel Villegas* —

In two 6-week workshops, Slam Poetry and Breakdancing, musician, poet and dancer Daniel Villegas aims to nurture the creative spirits of young people eager to express themselves through writing, rap and movement. These two inspiring workshops will be free to teens at the Hudson Youth Center and will be offered back-to-back in the same evening, so students can participate in one or both programs

Catherine Rogers, *Transformative Threads: Building Community Through Upcycling* —

The Transformative Threads workshop is an arts education initiative designed to empower Hudson City Junior High School students and district-wide participants to explore creativity, sustainability, and community connection. This workshop will teach participants how to upcycle clothing using DIY screen printing techniques, transforming discarded garments into personalized, wearable art. By engaging students and their families in hands-on activities, the program will foster environmental awareness, artistic expression, and community engagement.

COLUMBIA COUNTY
INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Mayuko Fujino, *Beakucency: Meet Bird People in Columbia County!* —

"Beakucency: Meet Bird People in Columbia County" is an art zine project that showcases bird conservation efforts in Columbia County. It features interviews with local birders and illustrations

inspired by their stories. Topics include local citizen science projects, birding tips, and actions community members can take to help birds in our county. Despite the divisive times we live in, the Columbia County birding community has worked together across party lines. This project celebrates the powerful connection that birds create for us, regardless of our other differences, and highlights and advocates for such alliances that are emerging at the local level.

Meng Xie, *This is us* —

I have been working at Camphill Hudson with people who have developmental disabilities for 3 years. After spending time I was deeply touched, and inspired by each one of them. I plan to make ceramic tiles painted with their portraits.

Pam Poquette, *Little Comforts* —

Artist Pam Poquette will create and offer 90 "Little Comforts," small stuffed paintings. She will give these artworks to community members who identify as someone with a need for comfort or to give to someone in their life in need of comfort. Comfort can be defined in many ways, and it is at the discretion of community members to determine what that means for them. "Little Comforts" will be available in local libraries, along with opportunities to attend a free workshop and/or artist talk with Pam Poquette.

Lauren Letellier, *The Queens of Seoul* —

"The Queens of Seoul" is a play that follows three 50+ women who have become addicted to Korean rom/coms ("K-dramas"). They start a podcast for women who, like them, are considered past their US "sell by" date but still fantasize about romance. As they fangirl about their obsession, we learn what emotional holes in their own lives the candy-coated fantasy world of Korean romance is filling. And in a twist worthy of a true K-drama, the Korean actors, forced to live straightjacketed lives in a conservative country that idolizes, objectifies, and traps them, materialize to talk back to the podcasters.

GREENE COUNTY COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Earth Arts Initiative / Miriam Atkin, *"Verbatim: Text Sound Expo"* —

The 5th annual Verbatim: Text Sound Expo, a small press / record label fair and performance festival. We request support from Create Council for the planning, promotion, and execution of the 5th annual Verbatim: Text Sound Expo. Verbatim is an admission-free, day-long market and performance festival; a celebration of experiments in language, text, and sound, bringing together local and regional presses and record labels to sell their wares and curate 9 hours of live performance.

Mountain Top Library / Room Collaborative —

Room Collaborative is requesting funding to offer life drawing sessions from a model as a time-tested artistic discipline for developing and maintaining technical skill as an artist, at no cost. We will also offer

art tutorials, at no cost. Our chief aim is to reach an audience not previously served, by our lack of a fee, our community outreach, and our personal, social, and artistic networks.

Athens Cultural Center, *Athens Cultural Center's 2nd Annual Summer Music Series* —

The Athens Cultural Center presents its second annual free summer music series! Showcasing the diverse musical landscape of the greater Hudson Valley and activating unconventional performance spaces, this series presents an eclectic mix of woman-led ensembles at award-winning brewpub Night School, and outdoor performances by The Big Takeover and The Goddess Party at the Athens Riverfront Park. Students from Coxsackie-Athens middle and high school as well as those served by programs for at-risk youth will be invited to shadow artists and production staff prior to performances, and to interact directly with the musicians during Q&A sessions.

Catskill Mountain Shakespeare, *Catskill Mountain Shakespeare Presents Romeo and Juliet* —

Our three-week MainStage summer production of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Rebecca Wahls, combines classical training with modern values, offering a vibrant cultural experience for all. We honor the text's integrity with cohesive storytelling and embodied performances while embracing inclusive casting, forgoing traditional gender, racial, body, and age expectations. Unique to our vision, we celebrate theatrical magic through bold staging, music, and design. Performed on Main Street in Hunter, the production supports local revitalization and boosts nearby businesses.

Community Partners Of Greenville, *Greenville Summer Concert Series 2025* —

Enjoy a summer Tuesday night listening and dancing to music in Greenville, at the crossroads of Rte 81 & 32. From July 1st-August 19th, neighbors, families and visitors assemble between 6-7:30 pm under the shade trees at the gazebo in Veteran's Park to experience free live concerts, food trucks and ice cream. The 8 week Greenville Concert Series features the rich local talent of Greene County and Capital District favorites, some making their only Greene County appearance.

The Goddess Party, *The Goddess Awakened: A Transformative Performance* —

"The Goddess Awakened: A Transformative Performance" will be more than a show—it will be a portal into the divine, where the Goddess dances through us, reminding us of our power, wisdom, and sacred connection. An immersive 45-minute experience blending music, singing, and projections, with singer-songwriter Shana Falana conducting interactive vocalizations. The performance will spill onto the street to engage the community attending the free block party hosted by the Athens Cultural Center. This performance will open the "Goddess Exhibition," curated by filmmaker Niva Dorell, on August 1st, 2025 at the Athens Cultural Center in Athens, NY.

Town of Hunter / Kevin VanHentenryck, *Hunter Stone Carving Seminar* —

Learn the Ancient Art of Stone Carving, FREE! No prior artistic experience or ability required. It is not as hard as you think. Join us for a moment, an hour, a day, or the whole two weeks. While there, stroll

through the sculpture park and enjoy the over three hundred stone carvings created by the students over the last seventeen years.

Mountain Top Library, *Mountain Primitives Awaken* —

"Mountain Primitives Awaken" allows us to revisit fundamental ritualistic practices of human kind, and examine how culture, ecology, and individual expression have shaped them into modern fine arts. With workshops in music, poetry, painting, and mosaic, artists at any level can engage & connect with our primitive desire for pattern, order, and storytelling.

The Catskill Comedy Festival, *"The Catskills Comedy Festival"* —

After an extremely successful inaugural Festival in 2024, The Catskills Comedy Festival is returning to create its annual multi-day, multi-venue festival based primarily in Catskill, NY (and surrounding areas). The Festival showcases a wide variety of comedic genres which appeal to all audiences (Stand-up/sketch/improv/drag/musical comedy/clown/storytellers/children's programming/comedy films, etc.). In addition to performances we provide free workshops for local students wherein they can train with professionals in the comedic arts and storytelling with the opportunity to apply those skills in front of live audiences. The Festival will make Catskill and the neighboring areas a destination for comedic entertainment, culture, and inclusivity.

GREENE COUNTY
ARTS EDUCATION

Boundless Arts, *Boundless Arts @ Hunter Day Camp* —

The Boundless Arts @ Hunter Day Camp program will take place in July and August 2025. The Boundless Arts program will provide five distinct sequential workshops for 65 school aged children in grades K-6. Each workshop will be led by a professional Teaching Artist. Participants will be guided through the process of creating original works of art using nature, found objects, and provided materials. Children will learn printmaking, mosaic design, sculpture, and landscape painting

GREENE COUNTY
INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Jane Toby, *WHEN WE MEET: Stories from the West Bank* —

The project is twofold: to work towards completing a full-length documentary WHEN WE MEET based on my travels to East Jerusalem and experiences in the West Bank; to hold film-screening events in my community. In three separate trips (2005, 2008, 2010) I lived with and interviewed Arab Christian and Muslim women and their families and documented many aspects of their lives. Forty hours of footage have been logged and reviewed and I am editing scenes to faithfully represent the aspirations and struggles of the Palestinian people I grew to know. Events to present my research and film are in process.

Jeffrey Benjamin, *General Delivery* —

I will create a series of 50 one-of-a-kind artworks (drawings, gouaches and handmade books) to be placed in public locations throughout Greene County for anyone to find and take home.

Lou Thorne, *Catskill Abundance Palette* —

I will create a palette of local colors by foraging and processing pigment materials found in Catskill, as a way to explore the region's intertwined social and environmental histories. Specifically, I will create handmade inks sourced from the area's "abundance stream"—materials so abundant in our landscape as to be considered worthless, such as brick fragments and invasive plants. Through public workshops, I will teach community members to forage and process pigments, inviting participants to contribute to the palette. Together, we will discuss working with place as material, connecting to history through pigments, and practicing reciprocity with our environment.

Caitlin Rose Sweet, *Tending* —

Tending is a mixed media project that explores rural queer peoples' relationship to land and belonging. I am inviting local LGBTQIA herbalists, farmers, gardeners, and foragers to participate in Tending as collaborative artists. For each collaborator I will sculpt an abstract ceramic vase inspired by their individual relationship to the land. I will film the collaborators interacting with their ceramic piece within their environment. Using the footage of each performance, I am creating video collages that will form an outdoor immersive installation that will be at Shadow Walls in Purling, NY in the fall of 2025.

Bruce Byers, *Catskill Portraits* —

Visual stories of Catskill NY through photographic portraits capturing the spirit and resilience of the community.

Kate Taverna, *Flesh Against Steel* —

I am obsessed with the vulnerability of the human body to violence. Have we always lived in the age of violence? Is violence a part of our DNA? This project of drawings invoking flesh against steel will transition me from the literal to abstraction. And hopefully the viewing public will share my concerns and be inspired to react.

Corinne Botz, *Milk Factory* —

"Milk Factory" makes lactation rooms and the invisible labor of motherhood visible. I'm currently photographing lactation spaces in Greene and Columbia counties. Each participant receives a photograph of their pumping space. Through my photographs, I hope to normalize pumping, empower moms, and create a public discourse concerning the politics of care. This project involves engagement with the community to make the work and it's released back into the community, and the greater public, through book form. "Milk Factory" will be published by Saint Lucy Books in Fall 2025.

Kulvinder Kaur Dhew, *Beyond The Visual - Experiencing The Landscape* —

A suite of drawings for exhibition that offers a contemporary interpretation of the Hudson River School's legacy, exploring the sublime in nature within a modern context. My process involves immersive engagement with landscapes, echoing transcendentalist philosophies. Building upon rich artistic, literary, and philosophical traditions, I attempt to articulate the intangible – emotional resonance, and the human-nature interface. Through drawing, I invite viewers to share this journey, contemplate their own landscape relationship, sublime or otherwise. This work explores personal experience and a continuing dialogue with artistic traditions shaping my understanding of the American landscape.

Justin Harmon-Calder, *Sunday Night Swim* —

Sunday Night Swim invites artists of all genres to tune into a deeper state with their instrument/ voice. Every show is donation based and all proceeds benefit a non-profit organization serving marginalized populations in our region. The goal is to provide a communal space for softer sensibilities and open minded exploration, collaborative music performance, and exposure to different cultural versions of this type of music.

Renee Baumann, *Woven, Embodied* —

This project will enable the creation of new works and an interactive exhibition exploring the relationship of traditional and contemporary basket forms to the human body. The funding will allow for creating new works using locally gathered plant material (particularly willow) as an art medium. The exhibition will also focus on facilitating participants' connection with basketry materials-- having a chance to feel, smell, touch and weave with local plants. The completed works will be featured in an interactive exhibition at Sugar Maples Arts Center in Maplecrest.

**SCHOHARIE COUNTY
COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Schoharie Free Library, *Color Your World with Art and Music* —

This summer, we'll offer workshops on Fused Glass Panels with The Studio for Art and Craft, West African Drumming and Dance with Zorkie Nelson, and Silk Scarf Dyeing with Sally Ziegler. In the fall, we'll host 2-session workshops on Nature Art with Casey Beal and Printmaking with Maeve McCool, and a concert with contemporary folk musicians Ash & Eric.

Jefferson Historical Society, *Maple Museum Free Music & More 2025* —

The Jefferson Historical Society's Maple Museum Free Music & More 2025 will offer 4 concerts with music from several periods from the American Songbook -- from historic music from New York in the 19th Century through 20th century jazz, country and rock. Also JHS will present a Holiday Concert with classical music and traditional favorites for a community singalong. There will be a dramatic presentation about a Jefferson Marine who served in WWI and died 10 days before it ended. Young and old are invited to submit their art for the Spirit of Jefferson Art Show, with prizes!

Panther Creek Arts, *3 Musical Events at Panther Creek Arts* —

Panther Creek Arts has been producing events of music, theater, art, festivals, and food since 2010. With the continued vision of offering spirited cooperation from, and lively engagement for the community the following events are applied for here. 1. Dana Lyn Duo (violin/fiddle, composer, arranger, animator, artist, collaborator); 2. Dennis Lichtman Duo (clarinet, mandolin, fiddle, band leader, teacher); 3. Nathan Koci Ensemble (accordion, banjo, piano, conductor, collaborative artist).

Middleburgh Library, *The Not so Quiet Concert Series* —

The Not so Quiet Concert Series is a series of folk music concerts booked by Sonny Ochs, with her extensive knowledge and connections in the field, and held at the Middleburgh Library.

Conesville Historical Society, *Conesville Historical Society Summer Music, Stories and Dance* —

This project seeks to bring three family events to Conesville, a story-song program with Story Laurie, a concert by the Catskill Mountain String Band, and finally a square dance with the Tremperskill Boys.

Timothy Murphy Playhouse, *Cabaret and Singing in the Rain Jr.* —

This summer, Timothy Murphy Playhouse plans on producing two musicals, with one being a junior show for kids 18 and under. The shows will be Cabaret and Singing in the Rain Jr.

Breakabeen Grange, *Breakabeen Grange Contra Dances* —

This project will support a number of contradances with live musicians and callers which have attracted community members of all ages, from youth to seniors.

The Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center, *Mime, Masks, Myths & Music* —

Barbara L. Gregson, theater artist, director and director of Gregson Theater, along with musician, Eric Porter will direct, and teach members, of the Gathering Place 50 plus Community Center of Cobleskill, NY how to create and perform an original collaborative Theater piece.

Amy Silberkleit, *Printmaking Workshops* —

Workshops in printmaking in four different venues around the county. I will set up my litho/etching press and supply plexiglass plates, paper, inks, drawing and etching tools and other supplies to participants, who will be able to use a variety of media and materials to create printing plates. Then we will print their plates on my press creating monotypes.

Summer Youth Programs at Depot Lane, *Adventures Down Under: Exploring Australia & New Zealand through Music* —

Explore the rich history, music, and folk stories of Australia and New Zealand. Known for some of the rich traditions brought to the region by the countries that settled there but also the rich history of the Indigenous peoples; the Aboriginal and Maori respectively. A guest artist will present to students songs and tales of Australia. Students will create their own Aboriginal instrument, a didgeridoo, and create art

in the style of Aboriginal pointillism. This will be offered through two workshops for children of great Schoharie for grades 2-12.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY
ARTS EDUCATION

Schoharie Free Library, *Intro to Crazy Quilting* —

Learn to piece, embroider, embellish, and finish a crazy quilt square in three classes taught by award-winning textile artist Betty Fikes Pillsbury. Crazy quilting is an art form which includes asymmetrical fabric pieces decorated with a variety of embroidery stitches, beads, ribbon, lace, buttons, and more. Ms. Pillsbury is an experienced instructor, and she will teach several stitches and techniques so that participants can continue to expand on their crazy quilting and embroidery skills in the future.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY
INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Patricia Van Tassel, *The Last Day of Dorothy Lillian Phelps* —

Two free performances in Schoharie County of the first full production of the play THE LAST DAY OF DOROTHY LILLIAN PHELPS, an original, audience-interactive, one-woman show written by Patricia Van Tassel. The play- in humorous, poetical, entertaining, and philosophical ways- explores the universal experience of living one's last day. It questions modern beliefs and invites the audience to explore sentiments about living and dying.

Christine Harris, *Wild Abundance* —

Wild Abundance is a collection of six composite art pieces inspired by Greek goddesses. By blending my flower photography with advanced digital design, this series explores femininity, creativity, and nature's transformative beauty. Each piece reflects the energy and symbolism of its namesake goddess, weaving intricate floral elements and storytelling into a vibrant expression of empowerment and grace. This project signifies a pivotal moment in my artistic growth, allowing me to push creative boundaries and connect deeply with my passion for art and storytelling.