The global coronavirus pandemic is harming the livelihood of millions, but few sectors are as vulnerable now as arts and culture. Many of you rely on cultural work opportunities beyond your CUNY appointments and commitments, but due to required social distancing protocols, those in-person events—on stages, in studios and galleries, or at schools and community settings—are now cancelled for the foreseeable future. As you know, this has devastated the financial security of many culture sector workers, with a particularly acute impact in the New York metropolitan region.

Emergency relief funding is now being made available for arts and culture workers, and the Research Foundation hopes that CUNY’s exemplary culture faculty will take advantage of these resources until the present crisis abates. Please note, many arts sector opportunities lists are being constantly updated, and so we encourage you to check them on a weekly basis. Also, please review opportunities carefully for any eligibility requirements.

Consider taking the Americans for the Arts COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers.

Emergency Grants – Arts Businesses and Nonprofits

1.) U.S. Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program

2.) New York City Small Business Services Financial Assistance Fund

3.) National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act Grant Program (limited eligibility; see guidelines)

4.) National Endowment for the Humanities CARES Act Grant Program (also limited eligibility)

5.) New York Community Trust COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund

6.) Facebook Small Business Grants Program

Emergency Grants - Individuals

General

1.) U.S. Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (includes self-employed individuals such as single-member LLCs and independent contractors)

2.) Artist Relief (emergency grants from a funder collective)

3.) Artist Relief Project (all artists, first-come first-serve basis)

4.) Foundation for Contemporary Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund (for loss of income related to COVID-19)
5.) CERF+ Emergency Grants (for medical emergencies related to COVID-19)

6.) Arts and Culture Leaders of Color Emergency Relief Fund

7.) Freelancers Union Relief Fund

8.) Anonymous Was A Woman Emergency Relief Grant (for artists over 40 who identify as women)

9.) Pollock-Krasner Foundation Emergency Grants (excludes some disciplines; see eligibility)

Music

1.) MusiCares (for musicians and music industry professionals)

2.) Musicians Foundation (for musicians and music industry professionals)

3.) Gotham Early Music Scene/Early Music America Relief Funds

Theater, Television, and Film

1.) The Actors Fund (actors and film/television professionals)

2.) Indie Theater Fund Rapid Relief Grants

3.) Dramatists Guild Foundation (for playwrights, librettists, lyricists, composers)

4.) Bret Adams and Paul Reisch Foundation Emergency Grants (for playwrights, composers, lyricists, librettists)

5.) American Documentary COVID-19 Artist Emergency Relief Fund (for documentary artists and filmmakers)

6.) Screen Actors Guild Foundation Relief Funds (for SAG-AFTRA members only)

Writing, Poetry, and Journalism

1.) PEN America Writers’ Emergency Fund

2.) Authors League Fund (for writers)

3.) American Society of Journalists and Authors Assistance Fund (for COVID-19 medical care only)

Visual Art

1.) New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Rauschenberg Emergency Grants (for visual and media artists and choreographers; for medical emergencies related to COVID-19)
2.) Artists Fellowship Relief Grants (for visual artists)

3.) The Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Emergency Grant (for painters, printmakers, or sculptors)

4.) Kinkade Family Foundation Emergency Grant (for art curators)

*Dance*

1.) Dance/NYC Coronavirus Dance Relief Fund (for freelance dance workers)

*Grant and Resource Listings (All Updated Daily)*

1.) COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources

2.) Creative Capital COVID-19 Arts Resources Listing

3.) New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Emergency Grants Listing

4.) New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) COVID-19 Resources Listing

In the coming weeks and months, more opportunities will emerge to support the resiliency of individual artists, artist nonprofits, and the broader cultural sector in New York City. We urge you to continually investigate and apply to these opportunities, using tools available to you like GrantForward (login with your CUNY email). CUNY’s cultural community is powerful, and working together, will emerge from this crisis stronger than before.

Please stay safe, and if you have any questions about seeking or applying to these funding opportunities, do not hesitate to reach out to your campus grants office or the Award Pre-Proposal Support (apps@rfcuny.org) staff at RFCUNY.