



Grant to pay nine St. Lawrence County artists, musicians \$65,000 annually for two years

Updated July 8 to clarify source of funding of AEP grant

POTSDAM — Nine St. Lawrence County artists and musicians will be paid a \$65,000 annual salary with benefits for two years through a grant program.

The Artist Employment Program (AEP) grant from Creatives Rebuild New York (CRNY), to be administered through SLC Arts and TAUNY, will pay the artists an annual salary of \$65,000 with benefits and dedicated time to focus on their artistic practice, said a press release from CRNY.

Local artists to receive the grant are Josh Barkley, Sharon Cheng, Karyn Crispo, Dan Duggan, James Gonzalez, Cassie Helman, Catherine LaPointe Vollmer, Matthew Mazzotta, and Andrew Norrell.

According to CRNY, the program is funding 98 collaborations involving 300 artists employed by community-based organizations, municipalities, and tribal governments across the state. CRNY has awarded a total of \$49.9M in funding to support artists' salaries and benefits, with an additional \$11.7M in funding provided to the organizations holding employment.

CRNY is a philanthropic organization funded by the by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF).

The nine local artists will work in collaboration with St. Lawrence County Arts and TAUNY to “grow the region’s arts industry by reinforcing the working relationship between TAUNY and SLC Arts, expanding access to the arts for low-income residents across the vast rural geography of the North Country, establishing new partnerships, and offering participating artists the opportunity to expand on their creative practices by engaging more deeply with community arts organizations than has ever been possible in our low-income, underserved community.”

SLC Arts and TAUNY will receive \$1.67 million to support the collaboration, including artists' salaries and benefits.

Josh Barkley will build a local music network, explore community musical arts programming trends, and perform and share contemporary and jazz music throughout the region.

Sharon Cheng will explore new visual arts display trends in her own work as well as trends on gallery curation for SLC Arts' and TAUNY's exhibition spaces and develop connections with other local artists to highlight the diversity of our artists to our communities.

Karyn Crispo will write a book of poems and develop new relationships with community health/human service agencies to increase capacity and better support underserved communities including people who are incarcerated, people managing addiction, those with disabilities, and active military and veterans.

Dan Duggan will expand folk music educational experiences, especially through introductory music classes and community contradances, in an effort to inspire grassroots musical communities across the North Country.

James Gonzalez, a metal sculptor, in tandem with Matthew Mazzotta, will engage community groups to create functional, representative public art pieces across the North Country.

Cassie Helman will build her artistic practice and craft education skills to create programming for children and augment partnerships with the North Country Children's Museum and local public libraries.

Catherine LaPointe Vollmer will grow her graphic design business, strengthen relationships with artist-entrepreneurs, identify professional development needs, and research artist residency models for our organizations as she prepares to apply for residencies across the country.

Matthew Mazzotta will lead public art initiatives, including the Potsdam skateable sculpture park and Canton amphitheater, and develop relationships with community members and municipal leaders to identify opportunities to build creative spaces across the region.

Andrew Norrell is a ceramicist who will research business models for ceramics studios, support other artists in their entrepreneurial endeavors, and develop ceramics education programs for the community.

Artist Employment Program recipients were selected through a two-stage process by a group of 20 external peer reviewers alongside CRNY staff.

From an initial pool of over 2,700 written applications, 167 were shortlisted for interviews with reviewers. To view the list of 98 Artist Employment Program participants, visit www.creativesrebuildny.org/participants/.

For more information about Creatives Rebuild New York's Artist Employment Program, visit creativesrebuildny.org.

View Full Story at: <https://www.northcountrynow.com/news/nine-st-lawrence-county-artists-musicians-be-paid-65000-annual-salary-two-years-under-grant>
(<https://www.northcountrynow.com/news/nine-st-lawrence-county-artists-musicians-be-paid-65000-annual-salary-two-years-under-grant>)

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