



320 Broadway
Saratoga Springs NY 12866
518-584-4132 • www.saratoga-arts.org

PRESS RELEASE

A press conference will be held at 10 am, May 9th, at the Arts Center with more information from Saratoga Arts President of the Board, Executive Director, City of Saratoga Springs Mayor Ron Kim and Department of Public Works Commissioner Jason Golub.

Saratoga Arts awarded \$766,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts for The Saratoga Community Arts Center Revitalization

Saratoga Arts announces a grant award totaling \$766,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to help support the Saratoga Community Arts Center Revitalization. This grant is part of a record capital project funding announcement by NYSCA, which totals over \$42 million to 144 capital projects across New York State.

A robust partnership between the Executive Director of Saratoga Arts, the Saratoga Arts Board, and the City of Saratoga Springs has formed with a new commitment to the revitalization of the Saratoga Arts building as once again the connective hub all the arts, arts education, and creative opportunity for all in our service area.

The scope of the \$2,000,000 project is to stabilize and upgrade the entire building with an eye to energy conservation and efficiency by replacing old redundant ineffective systems, installing energy-efficient windows, and safe access, addressing numerous drainage and roofing issues, upgrading power and internal wiring systems and in partnership with Saratoga Arts, reconfigure classroom spaces of the art center to provide indoor/outdoor access, specializing some spaces and creating flexibility in others to better serve artists of all genres and skill levels; renovate the gallery spaces to be energy efficient; upgrades to the black box theater enabling a flexible space for performing artists of all levels, film, music, exhibitions, artist talks and lectures and more, all geared to expand accessibility and collaborative work for artists and with multiple education and non-profit organizations in the region.

“Strengthening our creative sector increases tourism, boosts our economy, and enhances the rich heritage and cultural life of New York State,” Governor Hochul said. “These record grants will support a wide range of diverse and innovative projects at our arts and cultural organizations across the state, helping ensure all who visit will continue to have wonderful experiences for years to come.” NYSCA Executive Director Mara Manus said, “We are grateful to Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature for this fifth year of significant capital funding. This investment affirms the pivotal role the arts and culture play in our state’s

economic prosperity. A round of applause to Saratoga Arts, your transformative project will ensure that our vibrant arts and cultural anchors continue to grow and thrive."

NYSICA Chair Katherine Nicholls said, "These capital project grants are an investment from the people of New York to the people of New York and will have positive impact on our communities for many years to come. On behalf of the Council and staff, I congratulate Saratoga Arts and look forward to seeing all that will flourish from this project."

Saratoga Arts Organizational Background

Saratoga Arts operates the Community Arts Center, a multi-disciplinary building which serves all genres of arts and culture tracing its roots back to The Saratoga County Arts Council, a 1980 program of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. In 1996, Saratoga Arts signed the first lease with the City of Saratoga Springs for 320 Broadway, the former home of the Saratoga Springs Public Library. Over the next four years, they raised \$550,000 through a successful capital campaign and invested in the building. This funding allowed the specialization of spaces conducive to creating and presenting art across all genres.

The mission of Saratoga Arts is to enrich the region by cultivating a vibrant arts community and by ensuring that the arts are accessible to all. Every year, Saratoga Arts welcomes over 30,000 visitors and art appreciators. Our facilities include a 100+ seat black box theater, gallery spaces, and multiple classrooms and makers spaces. We hire local artists and teachers who engage over 500 students in all levels of arts education, host over 70 exhibitions and special events allowing over 700 artists to showcase and sell work and maintain a rich network of hundreds of member artists and multiple collaborative exhibition and event partners in the Capital Region and beyond. As a regrant site, we also distribute over \$140,000 dollars in direct funding from the New York Council on the Arts to Fulton, Montgomery, and Saratoga Counties.

In its 30+ years, Saratoga Arts has brought the arts to over 1,000,000 people through its programs and provided performing and visual artists opportunities to earn over \$3,000,000 in art sales and performance fees.

Today we celebrate our new 33-year lease and begin our \$2,000,000 revitalization project in partnership with the City of Saratoga Springs with both building and interior complete renovations providing state of the art facilities for creativity to thrive for many generations to come on the corner of historic Congress Park.

For more information about Saratoga Arts and the work we do please visit

<https://www.saratoga-arts.org> and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @Saratogaarts

About the New York State Council on the Arts

NYSICA preserves and advances the arts and culture that make New York State an exceptional place to live, work and visit. NYSICA upholds the right of all New Yorkers to experience the vital contributions the arts make to our communities, education, economic development, and quality of life. To support the ongoing recovery of the arts across New York State, NYSICA will award record funding in FY 2023, providing support across the full breadth of the arts.

NYSICA further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, NYSICA is an agency that is part of

the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit <http://www.arts.ny.gov>, and follow NYSCA's Facebook page, Twitter @NYSCArts and Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts.



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The graphic has a blue and white background with diagonal stripes. The text "Capital Projects Fund Grantee" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, there is a logo for the New York State of Opportunity, the Council on the Arts, and the website URL "ARTS.NY.GOV" in a blue rounded rectangle.

**Capital
Projects
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