CRNY Case Study
for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
Kansas City, MO
OVERVIEW

Creatives Rebuild New York

- 3-year, $125 million statewide initiative, funded by private philanthropy
- Guaranteed Income for 2,400 artists
- Artist Employment and benefits for 300 artists in collaboration with over 100 community-based organizations
- Both programs co-designed with CRNY Think Tank
- Sustainability via Impact and Narrative Change efforts
## OVERVIEW

### Creatives Rebuild New York

**Values**
- Equity for structurally marginalized and excluded groups
- Humanity of artists
- Artists are workers
- Trust-based framework
- Worker solidarity

**Commitment to Outreach**
- Focus on reaching those who don’t typically apply
- Outreach Corps comprised of artist organizers
- Information Sessions
- Prioritizing access
Guaranteed Income for Artists
WHAT IS GUARANTEED INCOME?

CRNY’s Guaranteed Income Program provides 2,400 artists with monthly, no-strings attached, cash payments of $1,000 for 18 months.
Who is it designed to support?

Eligibility

- Primary residence in New York State at the time of application
- Have financial need (as determined by the Self-Sufficiency Standard)
- Be an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker

Selection

- Randomized process (not merit based)
- Prioritizing people who come from communities that face structural barriers to financial security
Flanbwayan Haitian Literacy Project
WHAT IS THE ARTIST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM?

CRNY’s Artist Employment Program funds 2 years of employment at $65k/year plus benefits for 300 artists working in collaboration with community-based organizations across New York State.
ARTIST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Range of Collaborations

- Tiny volunteer-run cultural organizations to statewide advocacy organizations
- Work across sectors: from health and housing to racial equity, immigration, and beyond
- Over 1/3 of the collaborations involve non-arts organizations
- Geographic contexts range from urban, rural, to cross-region
Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council, Genesee Valley Council on the Arts, Arts Council for Wyoming County
ARTIST EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

CRNY x Tribeworks

- 163 of 300 artists have their W2 employment via Tribeworks, a worker cooperative
  - Smaller, community-based orgs that *cannot* provide W2 payroll & benefits are able to participate in AEP
- Shifting the balance of power between artists and organizations
- Bringing artists into the solidarity economy
Impact and Narrative Change
FOUR KEY INITIATIVES

Impact & Narrative Change

1. Implementation Evaluations
   - Best practices / program models developed in collaboration with peer learning communities

2. Impact Evaluations
   - Impact of GI and AEP on artists’ lives, artists’ practices, organizations, and communities

3. Narrative Change
   - Artists understand what guaranteed income / universal basic income is
   - Artists’ lives and practices are better understood
   - Artists’ labor is seen as essential to society

4. Advocacy
   - Artists and organizations become advocates for new structures and policies that support artists’ labor
IMPACT AND NARRATIVE CHANGE

Portrait of New York State Artists

Forty-six question survey for individual artists:

- Artistic Practice
- Financial Circumstances
- Well-being
- Pandemic Experience
- Policy and Advocacy Involvement
- Geographic Information
- Demographic Information
IMPACT AND NARRATIVE CHANGE

Portrait of New York State Artists

Respondents

- Over 12,000 responses collected via Submittable and SurveyMonkey
- 97% of respondents were applicants, 1% ineligible applicants, 2% other artists

How We’ll Use the Data

- Important baseline information as we begin to look at impact of GI and AEP funding on participating artists
- Tool for statewide and/or national research and policy efforts
- Share the survey and data with other NYS institutions to use beyond CRNY’s tenure
Thank you!

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