



**Hartford Foundation**  
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

*Greater  
Hartford's  
community  
foundation  
since 1925*



*Local artists and nonprofit leaders attended a Hartford Foundation event on September 10 where we announced a major investment in arts and culture. (Photo by Keith Claytor of TimeFrozen Photography)*

## Announcing a \$6 Million Investment in Arts & Culture

At an event held in Bushnell Park on September 10, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving **announced a \$6 million investment in arts and culture** over the next two years. This series of grants and investments — made as part of our Centennial anniversary — represents a comprehensive approach to launching the next century of creativity.

This Centennial Arts and Culture Investment includes **\$4 million in one-time "Appreciation Grants"** to 48 arts and culture organizations across 13 towns in the region. The Foundation aimed to provide close to 10 percent of the nonprofits' operating budget (with the exception of the

largest organizations). [See which organizations received grants.](#)



*Photos from our announcement event. (Keith Claytor of TimeFrozen Photography)*

## **Artists of Color Accelerate**

In addition to our Appreciation Grants, we announced an investment of **\$1 million to continue and deepen the Artists of Color Accelerate program**, expanding opportunities for local creatives by connecting them as fellows with host arts organizations.

## **Assets for Artists**

We've also committed **\$460,000 to launch Greater Hartford Creatives Alliance**, a professional development and grant program for independent creatives through a **new partnership with Assets for Artists**. This program will provide artists with career guidance to strengthen financial sustainability, as well as community-building events to connect with peers. In the words of Hartford Foundation President and CEO Jay Williams, we want to get rid of the concept of the "starving artist."

## **Supporting Cultural and Historical Nonprofits**

We are awarding **\$400,000 to launch a new partnership with CT Humanities** to offer a grant and capacity building program for smaller cultural nonprofits and historical societies. Participating organizations will be selected through an open application process in early 2026.

## **Announcement Event**

Dozens of representatives from local arts and culture organizations came to the park to enjoy performances from local artists and hear our

surprise announcement. Watch a spoken word performance from Versatile Poetiq along with highlights from the event.



### In the News

Thanks to the local media for covering this important announcement:

- [CT foundation awards \\$6M in a show of support for theaters, museums and arts nonprofits](#) (*Hartford Courant*)
  - [\\$6 million committed to arts and culture organizations across the state](#) (NBC Connecticut)
  - [Hartford Foundation to invest \\$6M in arts and culture groups and get rid of 'starving artists'](#) (CT Insider)
  - [Hartford Foundation for Public Giving invests \\$6 million into local arts](#) (FOX61)
  - [Hartford Foundation announces \\$6M investment in arts and culture](#) (Hartford Business Journal)
  - [Hartford Foundation investing \\$6 million to local arts, cultural programs](#) (WTNH)
  - [Hartford Foundation commits \\$6M in arts, culture grants](#) (CBIA)
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# The Hartford Art Tour



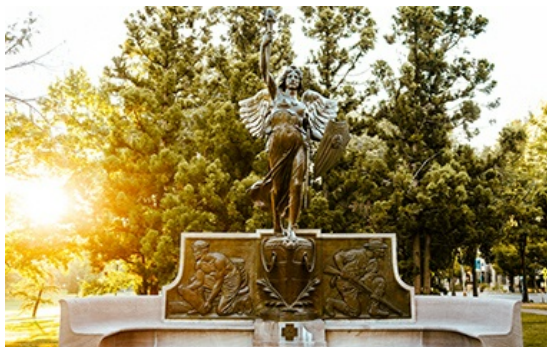
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the City of Hartford have co-created the **Hartford Art Tour**, a free digital experience that allows residents to learn about murals and other public art throughout the city while they embark on their own self-guided tour.

The app includes **more than 100 works of art**. It features maps, artist bios, stories, photos, and audio/video content.

It's also a “digital passport” that allows users to check in when they visit an artwork in person, keeping track of everything they've seen.

This was a **community effort**. Several local organizations contributed to the content development including the Greater Hartford Arts Council, Wadsworth Atheneum, Bushnell Park Conservancy, Cedar Hill Cemetery, and Riverfront Recapture. The app features brand new photos and voices of some of the local artists.

To try it out, visit [HartfordArtTour.com](https://HartfordArtTour.com) on your mobile device.



*The Spirit of Victory in Bushnell Park and the Parrot Mural in Parkville, two of the artworks featured in the Hartford Art Tour. (Photos by Keith Claytor of TimeFrozen Photography)*

**LISTEN:** [Amy LaBossiere](#) talks about her late husband Tao LaBossiere's mural "The Oneness of Being in Still Waters" for the Hartford Art Tour.

[The Hartford Art Tour](#)

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## Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits

Our [Grant Opportunities web page](#) features available and upcoming Requests for Proposals.

[Sign up to receive notification emails](#) when a new grant opportunity is announced.

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## 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford: Sarada Nori

Sarada Nori is a dancer and choreographer skilled in the Southern Indian dance of Kuchipudi, which utilizes a mixture of rapid footwork, body movements, facial expressions, and even brass plates and musical jewelry to tell a story. With more than 20 years of Kuchipudi dance under her belt, Sarada created Layavinyasa, a local organization that builds bridges between people of different cultures and forges new paradigms using Indian art forms.

Sarada travels throughout New England, articulating dance and other forms of artistic expression to connect people with Indian culture. Her Layavinyasa ensemble has performed at public libraries, schools, religious spaces, and most notably, the International Festival of Arts & Ideas in New Haven.

Layavinyasa was one of the recipients of our Centennial Arts and Culture Investment grants.

To celebrate the Hartford Foundation's 100th Anniversary, we are sharing 100 Influencers of Greater Hartford on our social media channels throughout the rest of 2025. Follow us on social for more!



Visit our website: [hfpg.org](https://hfpg.org)  
Questions? Email [hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org](mailto:hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org).



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