



## Community Development Block Grants and the Arts

### Update

Since the publication of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Federal Funding Resource Guide in 2006, the budget levels for CDBG funding have fluctuated. Most recently, the budget for FY 2012 reduced funding for the CDBG Program by 7.5% or \$300 million relative to funding levels in FY 2011. The budget for FY 2013 maintains the 2012 CDBG funding levels.<sup>1</sup> Approximately \$2.94 billion in funds in FY 2013 have been allocated for CDBG entitlement and non-entitlement activities.<sup>2</sup>

Established in 1974, CDBG is one of the oldest programs administered through HUD. The CDBG program awards annual grants based on a formula basis to 1209 general units of local government and States.<sup>3</sup>

### Appropriations

\$2.94 billion in FY 2013

### Who To Contact in Your State

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides a list of CDBG contacts within each state. Visit the following link to find CDBG contacts within your state:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/contacts](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/contacts).

### Examples

The following list highlights examples of arts projects that have received CDBG funding in recent years, from 2009-present.

#### 2012-2013

- ***Creative Portland Cooperation: Assets for Artists, Portland, ME:*** Since 2008, Assets for Artists has piloted an innovative matched savings grant program and financial and business training opportunities for low- to moderate-income artists. Initially launched in Berkshire County, Assets for Artists broadened its scope in 2011 to provide opportunities to artists throughout Massachusetts, with further expansion in 2012-2013 into Portland, Maine; New York City; and Rhode Island.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$24,250**

**Source:** <http://www.ci.portland.me.us/cdbg/cdbg20122013allocations.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Funding Highlights," 2013, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/housing.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Proposed Budget for FY 2013," <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=CombBudget2013.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Community Development Block Grant Program," [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/communitydevelopment/programs](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs)

- ***Living Arts, Detroit, MI:*** Living Arts exists to strengthen the urban neighborhoods of Southwest Detroit by cultivating an environment that sparks the imagination and fosters ingenuity through the arts and community development initiatives. At the heart of the Living Arts mission is the belief that the mastery of artistic skills should benefit individual creative pursuit and help to develop the broader community. Today, their commitment to youth development and cultural enrichment significantly impacts Southwest Detroit.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$60,000**

**Source:** [http://www.detroitmi.gov/Portals/0/docs/legislative/cpc/CDBG\\_NOF/2012\\_13/2012-13%20CDBG%20Allocation%20List.pdf](http://www.detroitmi.gov/Portals/0/docs/legislative/cpc/CDBG_NOF/2012_13/2012-13%20CDBG%20Allocation%20List.pdf)

- ***CityArts Community Youth Arts Afterschool Program, Providence, RI:*** CityArts Community Youth Arts Afterschool Program allowed 575+ of Providence's most challenged youth ages 8-14 to have free open access to quality arts learning during afterschool and summers between July 2012 and May 2013. The CDBG supported of \$15,000 covers 7% of the costs, and was used to augment Program salaries and administrative expenses for year-round access to CityArts programming.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$15,000**

**Source:** <http://www.providenceri.com/efile/3566>

## **2011-2012**

- ***New Urban Arts, Providence, RI:*** New Urban Arts purchased 705 Westminster Street, a 4,200 square foot commercial space in excellent structural condition. It is accessible to youth from diverse neighborhoods and allows for a safe, gang-neutral space. With CDBG support, New Urban Arts intends to transform the vacant space into a vibrant facility serving at-risk youth and local artists. It hopes to be an engine of economic and cultural activity in an emerging business and cultural hub, and to encourage public participation in the arts. Over 500 at-risk youth, over 20 artists and over 2,000 visitors will be served through free youth programs, artist residencies, and public programs.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$17,193**

**Source:** <http://www.providenceri.com/efile/1746>

- ***New Orleans African American Museum/Expansion of Tremé Facility, New Orleans, LA:*** NOAAM has presented art and cultural exhibitions in the Tremé neighborhood since its founding in 2000. With \$3 million in CDBG funds, the museum will perform maintenance on the building's antique architecture that has suffered from storm damage, including repairing the outdoor stairway to the second story of the servant quarters. Additionally, the museum will perform necessary updates, including the installation of an elevator.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$3 million**

**Source:**

[http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2013/03/new\\_orleans\\_african\\_american\\_m\\_1.html](http://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2013/03/new_orleans_african_american_m_1.html)

- ***Pittsburg Arts & Community Foundation, Pittsburg, CA:*** Pittsburg Arts and Community Foundation (“PACF”) is a non-profit organization that provides tools to improve literacy, promote education, create an environment where local artists can thrive, increase exposure to fine arts and literature, and unlock the artistic and education potential of every Pittsburg resident in a productive and inspiring way.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$5,749**

**Source:** <http://www.ci.pittsburg.ca.us/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5033>

- ***Hartford Children’s Theatre, Inc., Hartford, CT:*** The Hartford Children’s Theatre, Inc. provides theatrical training and quality entertainment for children and families, offering diverse programming for over 7,000 children and families from the Hartford area and beyond. CDBG funds contributed to Winter Performing Arts at the theatre.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$5,950**

**Source:** <http://grants.hartford.gov/Pdf/CDBG/Year%2020%20Annual%20Plan%2030-CommentPeriod-Public%20Notice.pdf>

- ***Real Art Ways, Inc., Hartford, CT:*** Real Art Ways is an alternative multidisciplinary arts organization that presents and supports contemporary artists and their work, facilitates the creation of new work, and creatively engages, builds, and informs audiences and communities. CDBG funding contributed to the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

**CDBG Funds Received : \$7,650**

**Source:** <http://grants.hartford.gov/Pdf/CDBG/Year%2020%20Annual%20Plan%2030-CommentPeriod-Public%20Notice.pdf>

- ***Fox Theatre, McCook, NE:*** The City of McCook and the Alliance for the Encouragement of the Visual and Performing arts used CDBG funds to remove material and architectural barriers within the historic Fox Theatre. The project includes a variety of renovations, including adding wheelchair accessible seating, ventilating and air conditioning system, and providing ramp access to the stage. Additional matching funds were used to complete the project.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$254,300**

**Source:** <http://www.mccookgazette.com/story/print/1692312.html>

- ***Valley Cinema, Ord, NE:*** The City of Ord used CDBG funds to rehabilitate and convert the existing historic Valley Cinema into a theater that also accommodates theatrical and cultural presentations, plays, music events, comedy shows, speakers, charity auctions, and other events. the project will include converting the theater to a live performance venue, including constructing dressing rooms, restoring the stage and orchestra pit, modernizing lighting and sound systems, restoring the theater lobby and concession areas, installing a large retractable screen and widening restrooms and walkways. Additional matching funds were used to complete the project.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$106,250**

**Source:** <http://www.mccookgazette.com/story/print/1692312.html>

- *Esperanza, Philadelphia, PA:* CDBG funding contributed to the mixed-use development and educational arts facility at 5th Street and Hunting Park Avenue.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$100,000**

**Source:** <http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2011/02/14/phila-projects-to-get-1m-in-block.html>

- *The Enterprise Center, Philadelphia, PA:* CDBG funding helped establish The Center for Culinary Enterprises, a culinary incubator that will provide chefs who work from home work space.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$250,000**

**Source:** <http://www.bizjournals.com/philadelphia/news/2011/02/14/phila-projects-to-get-1m-in-block.html>

## **2010-2011**

- *Connection Training Services, Philadelphia, PA:* CDBG funding assisted in the creation of the North Philadelphia Creative Arts Center and Gallery at the Allegheny Business Center, an arts incubator for ex-offenders.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$60,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- *Crane Old School, Philadelphia, PA:* CDBG funding aided the \$1.7 million conversion of an historic school into multi-tenant artist and commercial arts space, including the new Pig Iron Theater School.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$100,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- *Octo Enterprises Incorporated, Philadelphia, PA:* CDBG funding contributed to the Industrial building renovation and expansion for new artist workspace.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$100,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- ***Olney Cultural Collaborative, Philadelphia, PA:*** The cultural collaborative is an initiative of the North 5th Revitalization Project, a program of the Korean Community Development Services Center (Olney). CDBG funds will assist in an office renovation for the neighborhood cultural programming initiative.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$20,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- ***Revolution Recovery, Philadelphia, PA:*** CDBG funding for an artist workspace and office space at a recycling facility for a new artist-in-residency program.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$40,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- ***Underground Arts at the Wolf Building, Philadelphia, PA:*** CDBG funding for the creation of a multi-disciplinary arts venue.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$50,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- ***Vox Populi, Philadelphia, PA:*** CDBG funding for the creation of a multi-disciplinary performance venue and additional artist studios.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$30,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

- ***2215 East Tioga Street Gallery & Studios, Philadelphia, PA:*** CDBG funding for rehabilitation to create an art gallery and sculpture garden.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$100,000 (Creative Industry Workforce Grants funded by CDBG Grants)**

**Source:** <http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2010/03/31/mayor-nutter-announces-creative-industry-workforce-grants/>

## **2009-2010**

- ***Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN:*** The Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center used \$275,000 in CDBG funds to finance construction costs for renovation and build-out of an arts education studio space, and gallery space.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$275,000**

**Source:**

[http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/convert\\_272568.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/convert_272568.pdf)

- ***African-American Cultural and Heritage Facility, Austin, TX:*** CDBG funds facilitated the creation of the African-American Cultural and Heritage Facility, an anchor facility for the newly established African-American Heritage District. It is intended to house the Visitor's Bureau, Pro Arts Collective, Inc., and Capital City African-American Chamber of Commerce.

**CDBG Funds Received: \$550,000**

**Source:** <http://austintexas.gov/page/community-development-block-grant-cdbg>