



Council for Resources to Enrich the Arts,
Technology & Education (Greene County Council on the Arts)
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Free Columbia
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Free to Create

Grant for Black Artists Living in the Hudson Valley

First Round of Applications Due: August 28th.
(Second round in Spring 2021)

Free Columbia is partnering with **CREATE Council on the Arts** to administer *Free to Create*, a grant program for black artists awarding grants ranging from \$500-\$1000. Black artists have been marginalized and ignored for centuries, and are often missing the support to even begin. Creative activity is what can change the world for the better. We want to offer this grant to black artists to support their work and help form a more equitable art community. In this time where racial justice issues are erupting all over our country we want to support work that examines the present while envisioning the future. During a time of upheaval and despair we want to support the power of creative activity in individuals. We believe that this creative activity will act as the catalyst for individual and societal transformation.

This grant funds black artists who are inspired to use their creative work to enlighten and bring change into the world. We want to fund the young black man who is playing music on his front steps every night but who needs a better instrument, we want to fund the woman who has stories to tell but no time to write them down, we want to fund the dancer moving with compassion through the world, who has no venue. And so many others. We ask the question: What do you need to bring your creative activity into the world?

Free to Create funds creative projects for black artists living in Columbia, Greene and Schoharie Counties NY. To be considered for this grant, apply online by August 28th, 11:59pm.

Greene County Council on the Arts, d.b.a. **CREATE Council for Resources to Enrich the Arts, Technology & Education** is a tax exempt, non-profit, arts service organization whose purpose is to support and advance the arts and cultural community by broadening and enriching creative resources and economic growth in the region. **CREATE** serves as the Decentralization regrant agency for Greene, Columbia, and Schoharie Counties. Since 1975, the GCCA has provided information and essential services to artists, arts organizations, cultural and educational

institutions, civic groups, community agencies, and the general public and continues to grow its outreach as a regional arts council.

Free Columbia began in 2009 as a community-supported, community-oriented, cultural and educational initiative. It is located in the heart of Columbia County, New York, in the post-industrial village of Philmont. **Free Columbia** has developed programs for adults in the fields of social theory, studio and performing arts, and nature studies. The heart of the initiative is the cultivation of art, aesthetic education, contemplative inquiry, and action research in a spirit of independence and accessibility.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility:
 - Grant is for black artists living in Columbia, Greene, or Schoharie County, NY.
 - Must be over 18 years of age.
 - Grant is only for black artists.
 2. Criteria:
 - Grants can support a specific project of any medium (art, music, video, theater, writing, etc.), as well as general support/goals (purchasing arts related equipment, renting arts spaces, etc.)
 3. How to Apply:
 - Complete Online Application on Smarter Select at <https://smr.to/p67042>. For technical assistance, or to request a paper application, contact Grant Manager Maeve McCool at maeve@createcouncil.org.
 - Email applicable artist samples (images, sound, video, website, etc.) to maeve@createcouncil.org with the Subject: "Last Name: Free to Create Artist Sample"
 - Press SUBMIT. *If you do not press submit your application will not be reviewed.*
 4. Review Criteria:
 - Applications will be reviewed by staff of **CREATE** and Free Columbia.
 5. Required of Awardees:
 - *For grants \$600 and above awarded artists must provide a W9 in order to receive funds.*
 - Report on/Share project 6 months after awarded. Project does not need to be completed, and artists are not required to have a public component to their work.
 - In addition to funds, **CREATE** can provide artists with opportunities to share their work publicly through exhibitions, events, readings, sales, etc. *(This is not required of awarded artists.)*
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Contact CREATE Council on the Arts' Grant Manager Maeve McCool at maeve@createcouncil.org with any questions, comments, or requests for assistance.