

Arts initiative picks up \$25K grant



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The Arts Services Initiative of Western New York will map the economic impact of the arts and culture in the region with help from a new \$25,000 grant.

The funds come from the Arts & Culture Research Fund established last year by the New York Community Trust to answer exactly what arts and culture contribute to the state's economy and to community development efforts.

ASI was the largest grantee and one of six nonprofits who will receive a combined \$110,000, the first round of research grants to explore the role arts and culture play in New York.

The primary source of data for grantees is the Cultural Data Project (CDP), which started in New York state in 2009 and now operates in 13 states. The project allows arts and cultural organizations to enter financial, program and operational data into a standardized online form.

Grantees will also use the system to produce reports to help increase management capacity, identify strengths and weak spots and make strategic decisions. More than 2,800 arts and cultural groups statewide have input information into the system.

The goal is to help the public better understand the role and impact of art on communities and understand why it is important to support and sustain the sector.

Other groups receiving funds include the Center for Research, Regional Education & Outreach at SUNY New Paltz, \$20,000; Fractured Atlas, New York City, \$15,000; Le Moyne College, Syracuse, \$15,000; University of Texas at Arlington, \$20,000; and Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, New York City, \$15,000.

The [John R. Oishei Foundation](#) is among several major supporters of the Arts & Cultural Research Fund. Others are the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the New York Community Trust; the New York Council for the Humanities.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/news/2013/05/23/arts-initiative-picks-up-25k-grant.html>