IMPACT REPORT

ARTS EDUCATOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND: CYCLE 2
ABOUT THE ARTS EDUCATOR EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The NYC Arts in Education Roundtable is proud to host the Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund. This fund awards one-time, unrestricted grants up to $1,000 to teaching artists and arts education administrators who are facing serious financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis.

In Fall 2020, the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable’s Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund awarded 337 arts educators with its first round of funding. This fund was originally made possible by the generous support of the New York Community Trust, including funding from the NYC COVID-19 Response and Impact Fund in the New York Community Trust, and the Booth Ferris Foundation.

In Winter 2021, the Roundtable received a new infusion of funding from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation to ensure that arts-in-education professionals would continue to have access to additional financial support during this critical time.

These unrestricted cash grants are intended to support teaching artists and arts education administrators with:

- Lost wages and earnings
- Medical and healthcare expenses
- Childcare and eldercare
- Rent and mortgage payments
- Food, utilities, and other living expenses

Each cycle, recipients for the award were selected by a review panel of 13 NYC-based teaching artists, based on a brief application.

Priority in grant selection was given to applicants from communities most impacted by COVID-19 including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immunosuppressed, low-income, non-gender conforming, genderqueer, transgender-identifying practitioners, and practitioners with disabilities. In support of our work to dismantle white supremacy within our organizations, schools, and communities, we committed to granting at least $100,000 in each relief fund cycle to Black arts education practitioners.
Our Mission

The New York City Arts in Education Roundtable is a community of organizations and practitioners that shares information, provides professional development, and communicates with the public to promote our work in schools and beyond.

Our History

The Roundtable began in 1992 as a cohort of young arts administrators who sought to professionalize arts education, allied around the goal of making arts essential to New York City education. Built on a model of collective earned wisdom, these future leaders formed a new community of practice, laying the groundwork for pervasive arts education advocacy and a shift toward comprehensive field building. Since then, our primary function has been to ensure the sustainability of NYC’s diverse arts education community, and promote a culture of continuous improvement from lessons learned in classrooms and through research.

Now approaching our 30th year in operation, the Roundtable builds its efforts around the value that arts education should be a right for all NYC students. As the main convening body for NYC’s arts in education community, we have become a critical resource for the field, and a model for community impact across the country. Now, at the peak of our membership and professionalization, we’ve released a five-year strategic plan to set a roadmap for a sustainable, innovative, and equitable future.
Despite the fact that less than half of grant recipients had work confirmed within the next three months (as of April 2021), overwhelmingly applicants planned to pursue a career in arts education post-pandemic.

In line with our commitment, the Roundtable granted $101,000 to Black arts education practitioners in Cycle Two, totaling $218,000 across both cycles.

The chart below compares the impact of COVID-19 on those awarded with relief funds in Cycle One vs. Cycle Two.

Applications identified needing emergency funding to support the following expenses:
- Loss of Income: 87.2%
- Monthly Bills and utilities: 86.6%
- Rental Payments: 76.8%
- Groceries: 68.3%
- Medical / Healthcare allowances: 39.4%
- Childcare: 10.1%
- Mortgage payments: 9.6%
- Other: 7.1%
- Eldercare: 6.0%

### Cycle Two Recipients (March 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Awardees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>281</td>
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<tr>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96.2% (327 awardees) reported their 2020 income to be under $30,000.</td>
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<tr>
<td>95.3% (324 awardees) plan to pursue a career in arts education after the pandemic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>82.6% (281 awardees) were furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>52.9% (180 awardees) lost 71% or more of their income in 2020.</td>
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<td>37.4% (127 awardees) had work confirmed in the next three months in the field of arts education.</td>
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### Cycle One Recipients (August 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Awardees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92.9%</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89%</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>245</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>89% (300 awardees) were furloughed or laid off due to COVID-19.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.7% (245 awardees) lost 71% or more of their income between March - August 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9% (37 awardees) had work confirmed in the next three months in the field of arts education.</td>
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1,466
Total applications received in Cycles 1 & 2

$673,500.00
Awarded to more than 670 unemployed or furloughed teaching artists SO FAR...
Soon to be publicly announced, we are thrilled to host a third cycle of the Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund in March 2022, made possible by the generous support of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

As schools and cultural organizations begin to reopen their doors to in-person educational programming, many teaching artists are still piecing together work and recovering from 12-18 months without a stable income. We can see the light at the end of this dark tunnel, but the work to support artists must continue.

Confirmed funding puts the Roundtable on track to award $993,000 in direct-to-individual relief funding by the end of the third cycle. **We are currently seeking $15,000 to help us administer over $1,000,000 in relief funding to this essential workforce!**
We were overwhelmed at the outpouring of support and gratitude from those awarded with the Relief Fund. We’ve included a few of the 250+ statements we received below.

Please click here for a document with a full list of statements from Relief Fund recipients: https://bit.ly/30JNHBv

“As a teaching artist who lost a whole year of work and as a single mother of two little kids this help is so appreciated. Thank You!”

“This past year has been the most difficult year of my life personally and professionally. I have mourned the passing of 13 family members and friends. And during this difficult time, I have been unemployed or underemployed, causing financial instability for my family. This grant is meaningful, not just because of the financial relief it will provide for my family, but because it signals that arts education and arts educators matter, that our work and careers have value.”

“In these times of uncertainty, particularly for teaching artists, receiving help from entities like the Roundtable, makes us believe in our job more than ever, confirms the importance of it, and makes us feel somehow backed up. I really thank Roundtable for it!”

I am very grateful to receive this grant. Everyday life is still a struggle. Any amount of funds is encouraging and helpful. I am definitely going back to teach dance when we have a safe environment in our future. I miss interacting with students.

“There is hope on the horizon. I feel renewed as an artist and educator and can breathe a little easier today. Thank you to the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable’s Arts Educator Emergency Relief, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation.”

“This means more than the funders will ever know. As a black woman, in the teaching artistry field, in a time where arts and education is in a new digital space, the means for providing for oneself is constantly changing. I appreciate this grant so much because it is helping to pay my rent, put gas in my car, buy groceries, and help me set up myself for the future.”

“Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund has given me financial stability and hope during these unprecedented times. Thank you NYC Arts in Education Roundtable team for supporting those who truly believe that educating arts helps shape a better society, and ultimately, a better world.”

“Being an artist in NYC has rarely been easy, and has been made far more difficult due to Covid-19. Grants like this make me feel seen and respected, and give me faith in the future of the Arts in this city.”
"Navigating the pandemic as a Teaching artist has been confusing and a very emotional journey. Thank you for taking our work and our efforts seriously and as essential. More than ever we need the arts and our mental health to be a priority. This funding has helped me ease the burden of all the lost income. Thank you very much for this support."

"I'm beyond grateful to be a recipient of the Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund. It's extremely important to know that I'm not alone, and that there is a community of caring individuals who are making an impact in the lives of Arts Educators. Thank you for your work and dedication to our community."

"As an artist on DACA in the US and severely affected by the pandemic, this blessing comes to me in an extreme time of need and I can't thank you all enough for giving me the ability to eat and pay rent this month and have at least a few weeks of peace of mind. Thank you so much."

"Because of the Arts in Education Roundtable Relief fund, I have been able to pay rent and bills next month. The process was so stress free and grateful for the financial support as a teaching artist of 14 years in NYC for several arts organizations."

"I feel so lucky to have received this assistance from NYC Arts in Education Roundtable and its Emergency Fund. I accept it only with complete assurance to those who gave it that the moment it's safe and possible for me to take the covering off the piano keys and start teaching music to my students again, I will."

"The NYC Arts in Education Roundtable has supported my career as a teaching artist for many years through various opportunities to grow as a teaching artist. Now, I cannot tell you enough how overwhelming it is to be supported in this way though receiving this grant. Thank you for remembering us during this time, thank you for supporting us. This is so meaningful and appreciated."

"Thank you. I have loved working as a teacher in the arts, especially in senior centers all across NY and surrounding boroughs. This grant helps with more than the great relief it brings financially. It also brings to me a validation that my contribution and commitment to art and to education of art is valued by society. Of course it is valued by me but I thank you again for the awareness, the celebration and validation and for the financial assistance."

"This is an extremely challenging time, facing financial hardship and loss of work due to COVID 19. As an art teacher, I have not been out of work in over two decades, so grants like these are critical. At times like this, it is a great boon to rely on the generosity of arts organizations such as yours. Thank you."

"I've lost a significant amount of teaching artist work this year due to the pandemic and this grant will go a long way toward covering expenses like rent, bills and groceries. I appreciate the support of the NYC Arts in Education Roundtable and all the people who were able to make this grant available to teaching artists like me who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Thank you so much!"
“As Arts Educators and Practitioners we piece together a livelihood with the hopes that it will sustain us beyond the present moment. Quite often we are faced with unforeseen circumstances and events that exposes just how fragile our individual situations and collective industries are. The pandemic has helped to shine a brighter light on this fact more than ever. However, thankfully grant programs like The Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund are amazing reminders that we are not alone in this and stresses the need to continue pulling together our resources and power to build a more solid path forward.”

"During this time of the pandemic, this fund has helped me not once but twice! It has given me the opportunity to make small payments towards my CUNY debt, buy groceries, allowed me the ability to continue teletherapy and most of all given me a shot towards returning to normalcy."

"My family very much appreciate this grant. It will help us keep our health insurance while we wait for normal life to return. My husband and I both have chronic illnesses, so health insurance is a necessity. The application was easy and straightforward—a rarity in the not-for-profit world! Thank you."

Applicants used these words to describe the impact of this Relief Fund.
As the convening body for NYC’s arts in education community, the Roundtable is grateful for the opportunity to support hundreds of teaching artists and cultural workers through our Arts Educator Emergency Relief Fund. In this critical moment, we thank our relief fund partners who have enabled us to prioritize and invest in these essential members of our schools and communities.

Cycle One
- New York Community Trust
- Booth Ferris Foundation

Cycle Two
- NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
- The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation

Acknowledgements

New York City Arts in Education Roundtable
Times Square Station
PO Box 2094
New York, NY 10108
www.nycaieroundtable.org

Questions? Contact Executive Director, Kimberly Olsen at kolsen@nycaieroundtable.org.

We thank you for your continued support of teaching artists.