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*** **PRESS RELEASE** ***

Mayor Fulop Encourages Local Artists and Arts Organizations to Apply for 2nd Round of Arts & Culture Trust Fund Grants

*Following Successful First Round of Grants Awarded to 89 Artists and Arts Entities,
Latest Tranche Further Expands Opportunities*

JERSEY CITY - Mayor Steven M. Fulop, City Council members, and the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee announce *this Monday, January 23, applications will open for the second round of Arts and Culture Trust Fund grants to expand arts education and programming citywide.* Following the successful first allocation of grants, totaling \$900,000 awarded to 89 artists and arts organizations last year, the City is looking to promote even more applicants from Jersey City's flourishing arts community with this latest round of funding.

"As the first in the state to implement the Arts and Culture Trust Fund, Jersey City remains ahead of the curve in establishing a critical funding source that has already proven to be highly successful in supporting our local artists and programming to benefit the community at large," said **Mayor Fulop**, a staunch supporter of the arts. "For this second allocation, we are expanding the application period to encourage even more Jersey City artists and organizations to apply so that we can really maximize the countless opportunities that can be achieved with these grants."

Jersey City Artist Catriona Rubenis-Stevens was able to employ dozens of artists, musicians, and technicians using the grant money her organization received last year from the Arts and Culture Trust Fund. She also expanded her biggest event, the Zombie Opera, to make the unique concert more accessible for everyone to enjoy. "The opera is often inaccessible because it is so expensive. That's why we created the Zombie Opera during the pandemic. To make sure no one is denied access to the arts. We started with all volunteers using a stoop as our stage, but with the grant money from the Fund,



our concert has quickly grown to attract 4,000 people. Importantly, can employ local artists and residents now, so we see the money going straight back into the community,” noted **Catriona Rubenis-Stevens, Owner of Half-Light Productions and Director of the Zombie Opera.**

The Fulop Administration is committed to making Jersey City a regional destination and the standard-bearer for arts and culture in New Jersey, attracting investments, jobs, tourism, and businesses. In addition to the Arts and Culture Trust Fund, consistent with this vision is the Centre Pompidou coming to Journal Square, the Loew’s Theatre renovation with the NJ Devils, the Liberty Science Center expansion, and the Museum of Jersey City history at the Apple Tree House.

Grant applications will be available on the [Cultural Affairs website](#) beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 23, and accepted through 5 p.m. on Friday, March 3, 2023.

Following the grant application process, eligible applicants will be awarded upwards of \$25,000 each for General Operating Support. Program and Arts Education grants will also be available, with a maximum of \$17,500 each. Additionally, the **Jersey City Arts Council** will administer an Individual Artist Fellowship grant program to award 20 artists \$5,000 each in unrestricted funds.

“The Arts Trust grants and the Individual Artist Fellowships demonstrate the value of supporting the artists making Jersey City such a vibrant, creative community,” said **MacAdam Smith, Executive Director of the Jersey City Arts Council.** “The grants create more public arts and arts education opportunities for all residents and build deeper connections between artists and other community groups. We want to thank the City and the Arts & Culture Trust Fund Committee for continuing to make this program happen.”

In November 2020, the Arts Trust Funds received strong support from voters to implement an annual tax not to exceed two cents per \$100 dollars of assessed property value. The Trust generates approximately \$1 million in annual revenue for arts and cultural programs, quadrupling the amount that all of Hudson County receives from the State each year. In January 2023, the City Council voted unanimously to set a rate at a quarter of a penny (\$0.0025) per \$100 of assessed property value.

“The second round of grants we are awarding to our arts community will allow us to grow and keep building upon this important initiative we started here in Jersey City,” added **Ward B Councilwoman Mira Prinz-Arey**, who also serves as the City Council representative on the Arts and Culture Trust Fund Committee. “The first grants awarded last year really showed us how impactful the Arts and Culture Trust Funds can be throughout our community, and so I’m excited we can continue the progress.”

“Investing in the arts is proven to boost local economic assets, stimulate growth, and create jobs. After witnessing how much these grants can really benefit people, we want to spread the word that these funds are being made available again. Our hope is to have a bigger pool of applicants this year to help even more residents achieve their goals with support from the Fund,” concluded **Christine Goodman, Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs.**

Information on workshops, open office hours, and support sessions to help applicants submit proposals is available online at JerseyCityCulture.org.

All media inquiries should be directed to Kimberly Scalcione at KScalcione@jcnj.org.