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ERIE COUNTY
ARTS + CULTURAL
ADVISORY BOARD



ERIE COUNTY
ARTS &
CULTURAL
ADVISORY
BOARD

Meetings on Fridays at 9am | UPDATED: 11.19.2025

DATE	BOARD	APPLICANTS	STAFF
PREP period			
1/9/26 9am	2026 #4: Wrap Up meeting & 2027 Funding Kick Off		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish forms, applications, and website• Prepare Press Release
1/30/26 9am	2027 #1: 2027 Application Finalization meeting		
APPLICATION period (also contracts period)			
2/18/26		Applications released	
2/25 - 26/26		Applicant Briefing/Workshop	
March - May	Potential site visits (by team; ~15) (Details TBD)		
4/15/26		Level 1 Applications Due	
4/22/26		Level 2 & Level 3 Applications Due	
REVIEW period			
5/1/26	Application assignments by email		Send info to MC by 4/28-29
5/8/26 9am	2027 #2: Training meeting		
5/11 - 15/26	Team meetings to confirm documents/errors		Team meetings to confirm documents/errors
5/22/26	Deadline to request corrections/missing documents	Missing/corrected items/documents due within 1 week of notice	
6/12/26	Deadline to send questions/requests for clarification	Reply to questions/requests for clarification no later than 6/19/25	
6/26/26	Reviews, Recommendations, Feedback DUE		Reviews, Recommendations, Feedback DUE
RECOMMENDATIONS & FEEDBACK period			
7/10/26 9am	2027 #3: Funding Recommendations meeting		Recommendations Chart & Memo to T. Baines & D. Castle
July	Review Wrap up party (Details TBD)		Review Wrap up party
August	Departmental Budgets		Departmental Budgets
August/September	Review/edit feedback letters		Feedback Letters; collate, edit, review, sign, send
BUDGET PROCESS & RESET period			
October	Fill vacancies		Fill vacancies
10/15/26	Proposed Budget Released		
Fall	Potential site visits (Details TBD)		
November	Legislative Budget Hearings		
December	Budget Adopted		

As part of the EACAB 2026 Cultural Operating Support Grant application, organizations are required to provide a narrative on how their organization meets accessibility needs of those who utilize their services.

- The majority of organizations (93%) seeking funding through the 2026 Erie County Cultural Operating Support Grant have self-reported that they provide physical accessibility accommodations to their patrons including, but not limited to,
 - handicapped parking spaces and
 - ADA compliant facilities.
- 42% of organizations have self-reported that they provide communicative supports for their visitors including
 - ASL interpretation services,
 - verbal language interpretation services,
 - closed captioning and live-captioning,
 - audio support devices, and
 - written text to follow along with programming.
- 33% of organizations report that they provide sensory and/or neurodiversity support services within their facilities/during their programming including
 - quiet spaces,
 - programs modified to be less stimulating, and
 - events tailored to specific neurodiversity needs.
- Other accessibility efforts noted by these organizations that could be expanded include,
 - affordability for patrons (11%),
 - digital/hybrid experiences via online programming (12%), and
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive (DEI) workforce training opportunities (15%).

Organization	2025 Legislative Adopted	2026 EACAB Recommendation	2026 Executive Proposed	2026 CE Proposed vs. EACAB Rec.	2026 CE Proposed vs. Most Recent Leg Adopted
DECREASE FROM 2025 EXECUTIVE PROPOSED (OR MOST RECENT): 6					
Amherst Symphony Orchestra Association (ASOA)	\$25,000	\$18,700	\$18,700	\$0	-\$6,300
Buffalo Inner City Ballet	\$29,000	\$26,638	\$26,638	\$0	-\$2,362
Hamburg Natural History Society, Inc.	\$90,000	\$78,815	\$78,815	\$0	-\$11,185
India Association of Buffalo Inc	-	\$2,196	\$2,196	\$0	-\$3,804
Music is Art	\$49,500	\$46,500	\$46,500	\$0	-\$3,000
Orchard Park Historical Society	\$2,000	\$1,057	\$1,057	\$0	-\$943
Totals	\$195,500	\$173,906	\$173,906	\$0	-\$21,594
SAME AS 2025 EXECUTIVE PROPOSED (OR MOST RECENT): 3					
Cheektowaga Historical Association	\$1,240	\$1,240	\$1,240	\$0	\$0
General Pulaski Association, Inc.	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Irish Classical Theatre Company, INC.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$121,240	\$121,240	\$121,240	\$0	\$0
INCREASE FROM 2025 EXECUTIVE PROPOSED (OR MOST RECENT): 90					
African American Veterans Monument Inc.	\$3,210	\$4,081	\$4,081	\$0	\$871
Alden Community Theater Society Inc.	\$3,500	\$4,307	\$4,307	\$0	\$807
Alleyway Theatre, Inc	\$17,490	\$21,716	\$21,716	\$0	\$4,226
Alliance Francaise de Buffalo inc	\$2,625	\$3,230	\$3,230	\$0	\$605
American Legion Band of the Tonawandas, Inc.	\$10,000	\$12,825	\$12,825	\$0	\$2,825
Amherst Chamber Ensembles, Inc. <i>Funding for this organization was accidentally excluded from the 2025 Budget Book resulting in an Executive Proposed Total that is \$1,500 higher than what was published.</i>	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	\$300
Amherst Male Glee Club	\$7,500	\$9,870	\$9,870	\$0	\$2,370
Arts Services of WNY	\$38,500	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$0	\$10,000
Assembly House 150	\$2,350	\$3,005	\$3,005	\$0	\$655
Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center	\$3,500	\$3,820	\$3,820	\$0	\$320
Aurora Historical Society, Inc	\$3,500	\$4,294	\$4,294	\$0	\$794
Ballet Artists of WNY, Inc. (DBA Neglia Ballet Artists)	\$45,660	\$57,712	\$57,712	\$0	\$12,052
Big Easy in Buffalo, Inc.	\$4,305	\$5,601	\$5,601	\$0	\$1,296
Black Rock Historical Society	\$6,500	\$7,853	\$7,853	\$0	\$1,353
Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Inc.	\$190,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$0	\$50,000
Buffalo Arts and Technology Center, Inc.	\$17,024	\$22,467	\$22,467	\$0	\$5,443
Buffalo Arts Studio/Art Studio of WNY, Inc	\$48,000	\$63,346	\$63,346	\$0	\$15,346
Buffalo Chamber Players	\$1,575	\$2,020	\$2,020	\$0	\$445
Buffalo Choral Arts Society	-	\$2,918	\$2,918	\$0	\$418
Buffalo Girlchoir	\$3,000	\$3,814	\$3,814	\$0	\$814
Buffalo Heritage Carousel, Inc.	\$45,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$4,500
Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art, Inc.	\$3,210	\$4,308	\$4,308	\$0	\$1,098
Buffalo International Film Festival, Inc.	\$5,215	\$7,076	\$7,076	\$0	\$1,861
Buffalo Maritime Center	\$1,590	\$2,004	\$2,004	\$0	\$414
Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, Inc.	\$6,065	\$7,643	\$7,643	\$0	\$1,578
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village	\$30,000	\$38,141	\$38,141	\$0	\$8,141
Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Inc.	\$7,000	\$9,524	\$9,524	\$0	\$2,524
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus Inc.	\$43,160	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$6,840
Buffalo String Works, Inc.	\$11,000	\$13,535	\$13,535	\$0	\$2,535
Buffalo Toronto Public Media (WNED/WBFO)	\$50,000	\$68,587	\$68,587	\$0	\$18,587
Center for Exploratory & Perceptual Arts, Inc.	\$72,500	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$2,500
Central Terminal Restoration Corp.	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$1,500
Centro Culturale Italiano di Buffalo	\$7,500	\$9,257	\$9,257	\$0	\$1,757
Clann Na Cara Parents Organization, Inc.	\$3,150	\$4,040	\$4,040	\$0	\$890
Community Music School of Buffalo	\$4,400	\$5,758	\$5,758	\$0	\$1,358
Concordia Foundation Inc.	\$1,000	\$1,294	\$1,294	\$0	\$294
Danceability, Inc.	\$4,750	\$5,986	\$5,986	\$0	\$1,236
El Museo Francisco Oller y Diego Rivera	\$11,500	\$13,209	\$13,209	\$0	\$1,709

Enlightenment Bookstore & Literary Arts Center, Inc.	\$11,025	\$14,222	\$14,222	\$0	\$3,197
Explore Buffalo Inc.	\$5,000	\$6,468	\$6,468	\$0	\$1,468
First Look Buffalo Theatre Company Inc.	-	\$4,071	\$4,071	\$0	\$1,071
Friends of Limerick Inc.	\$1,165	\$1,542	\$1,542	\$0	\$377
Graycliff Conservancy, Inc.	\$72,500	\$77,500	\$77,500	\$0	\$5,000
Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, Inc.	\$4,000	\$4,773	\$4,773	\$0	\$773
Hallwalls Inc	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$85,000	\$0	\$10,000
Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, Inc.	\$4,000	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$0	\$1,100
Hispanic Heritage Council of WNY, Inc.	\$37,500	\$46,561	\$46,561	\$0	\$9,061
Historic Colored Musicians Club of Buffalo NY	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$10,000
Hull House Foundation	\$11,000	\$11,966	\$11,966	\$0	\$966
Irish Cultural & Folk Arts Association of WNY, Inc.	-	\$3,870	\$3,870	\$0	\$807
Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.	\$8,000	\$9,725	\$9,725	\$0	\$1,725
Just Buffalo Literary Center, Inc.	\$100,000	\$124,164	\$124,164	\$0	\$24,164
Karen Society of Buffalo	\$4,500	\$6,006	\$6,006	\$0	\$1,506
Lancaster, NY Opera House Inc.	\$46,000	\$60,193	\$60,193	\$0	\$14,193
Lipsey/Richardson Architecture Center	\$3,360	\$4,272	\$4,272	\$0	\$912
Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes, Inc.	\$36,000	\$40,500	\$40,500	\$0	\$4,500
MusicalFare Theatre Company, Inc.	\$80,000	\$107,361	\$107,361	\$0	\$27,361
Net Positive Inc. d/b/a The Foundry	\$5,455	\$7,179	\$7,179	\$0	\$1,724
Newstead Historical Society	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$500
Nickel City Opera	\$3,500	\$4,020	\$4,020	\$0	\$520
North Park Theatre of Buffalo, Inc.	\$3,200	\$4,092	\$4,092	\$0	\$892
Nusantara Arts Inc.	\$7,525	\$10,266	\$10,266	\$0	\$2,741
O'Connell & Company Productions, Inc.	\$25,000	\$32,714	\$32,714	\$0	\$7,714
Orchard Park Chorale	\$3,800	\$3,950	\$3,950	\$0	\$150
Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra	\$7,875	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	\$625
Peace Of The City	\$4,935	\$6,458	\$6,458	\$0	\$1,523
Polish Arts Club of Buffalo, Inc.	\$3,000	\$3,803	\$3,803	\$0	\$803
Polish Genealogical Society of NYS, Inc.	\$3,000	\$3,703	\$3,703	\$0	\$703
Preservation Buffalo Niagara	\$12,500	\$15,985	\$15,985	\$0	\$3,485
Road Less Traveled Productions Ltd.	\$66,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$0	\$4,000
Roycroft Campus Corporation	\$67,750	\$88,654	\$88,654	\$0	\$20,904
Roycrofters-at-Large Association	\$5,500	\$7,361	\$7,361	\$0	\$1,861
Sardinia Historical Society	\$1,010	\$1,254	\$1,254	\$0	\$244
Second Generation Theatre	\$8,025	\$10,292	\$10,292	\$0	\$2,267
Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Inc.	\$115,000	\$116,250	\$116,250	\$0	\$1,250
Springville Center for the Arts	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$5,000
Squeaky Wheel Film and Media Arts Center	\$36,540	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$3,460
Steel Plant Museum of WNY	\$7,500	\$9,061	\$9,061	\$0	\$1,561
Stitch Buffalo, Inc.	\$6,420	\$8,496	\$8,496	\$0	\$2,076
Theatre of Youth Company, Inc.	\$85,365	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$0	\$4,635
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation	\$38,760	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$11,240
Torn Space Theater	\$25,000	\$32,900	\$32,900	\$0	\$7,900
Ujima Company, Inc	\$70,665	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$0	\$22,335
Vocalis Chamber Choir	\$4,725	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$1,275
West Falls Center for the Arts	\$15,200	\$20,229	\$20,229	\$0	\$5,029
Western New York Artists Group, Inc.	\$8,400	\$10,680	\$10,680	\$0	\$2,280
Western New York Book Arts Collaborative, Inc.	\$10,000	\$13,086	\$13,086	\$0	\$3,086
Western New York Heritage, Inc.	\$5,500	\$7,033	\$7,033	\$0	\$1,533
Young Audiences of WNY, Inc.	\$23,070	\$28,902	\$28,902	\$0	\$5,832
Youth Orchestra Foundation of Buffalo Inc.	-	\$2,610	\$2,610	\$0	\$110
Totals	\$1,988,049	\$2,416,813	\$2,416,813	\$0	\$428,764

RALPH WILSON JR. FOUNDATION GOS RECIPIENTS; GRANTS HELD TO 2025 EACAB RECOMMENDATION: 12					
Buffalo AKG Art Museum	\$725,000	\$675,000	\$725,000	\$50,000	\$0
Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society	\$417,000	\$417,000	\$425,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Buffalo Naval Park Committee, Inc.	\$65,000	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy. Inc.	\$50,000	\$48,050	\$50,000	\$1,950	\$0
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc.	\$955,000	\$940,000	\$950,000	\$10,000	-\$5,000
Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences	\$955,000	\$955,000	\$955,000	\$0	\$0
Burchfield Penney Art Center	\$165,000	\$165,000	\$170,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

Explore & More...A Children's Museum	\$70,000	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$5,000	\$0
Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House Corporation	\$200,000	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$10,000	\$0
Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission Inc	\$40,000	\$32,500	\$40,000	\$7,500	\$0
Shea's O'Connell Preservation Guild, LTD	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$0
Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$5,842,000	\$5,647,550	\$5,855,000	\$207,450	\$13,000

NEW APPLICANTS: 7

Bangladeshi American Social & Cultural Organization, WNY	-	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus	-	\$3,000	\$3,000		
Buffalo Harbor Museum	-	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project, Inc.	-	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Richardson Olmsted Campus	-	\$50,000	\$50,000		
Starring Buffalo Inc	-	\$3,000	\$3,000		
Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation	-	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Totals	-	\$62,000	\$62,000		

DID NOT APPLY: 19

African American Cultural Center, Inc.	-				
Brighton Place Inc	\$3,030				
Buffalo Kali Puja Samiti	-				
Buffalo Niagara Choirs Inc	\$2,900				
Cheektowaga Community Symphony Orchestra	\$2,500				
Chinese Club of Western New York	\$3,570				
Clarence Concert Association	-				
D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre	\$12,525				
El Batey Inc	\$3,060				
Festival Chorus of CFPA (Christian Foundation for the Performing Arts)	\$1,972				
Historical Society of the Tonawanda	-				
Kala Seva Arts & Cultural Society, Inc	-				
Lancaster, New York Historical Society	\$1,600				
Polish American Congress WNY Division	-				
South Buffalo Irish Feis	-				
Spark Filmmakers Collaborative (former: The New Hotness Media Institute)	-				
Subversive Theatre Collective	-				
Tonawanda-Kenmore Historical Society	-				
WNY Urban Arts Collective	-				
Totals	\$31,157				

Totals	2025 Leg Adopted	2026 EACAB Rec	2026 CE Proposed	2026 CE vs. EACAB Rec	2026 CE Proposed vs. 2025 Leg Adopted
Compared to what is listed in the 2025 Budget Book, the 2025 Executive Proposed total increased by \$1,500 due to Amherst Chamber Ensembles retroactive award; 2026 EACAB Recommendation reflects 3% annual increase to cultural funding budget; the 2026 CE Proposed total is \$207,450 more than the 2026 EACAB recommendation due to increases received by Ralph Wilson Foundation recipients; The 2026 CE Proposed total is \$451,013 more than the 2025 Legislative Adopted total for this program, showing a 5.2% increase in funding between 2025 to 2026.	\$8,177,946	\$8,421,509	\$8,628,959	\$207,450	\$451,013
					5.23%