



**CONTACT: Cait Crudden, [ccrudden@nysenate.gov](mailto:ccrudden@nysenate.gov), 631-360-3356**

**Sarah Giancana, [giancana@nysenate.gov](mailto:giancana@nysenate.gov), 631-360-3356**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, January 20, 2026**



## **NYS Council on the Arts Awards Nearly \$319,000 In Grants To Arts & Cultural Organizations in The 3rd Senate District**

(Patchogue, NY) – New York State Senator Dean Murray says that nearly \$319,000 in grant money has been secured for organizations in the 3rd Senate District through the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). These grants will provide funding and critical support for local arts and cultural institutions that enrich our communities and strengthen our regional economy.

These grant awards were made possible through a larger statewide investment in the NYS FY2026 Budget. **Senator Murray says**, "providing funding to the arts, serves as a very smart investment that offers incredible returns in the form of economic impact and job creation... but it also provides the opportunity for artists and organizations to supply us with the beauty and culture that only the arts can provide. It's a big win for everyone involved."

Senator Murray was proud to team with his NYS Assembly colleagues, Joe DeStefano and Jarett Gandolfo to advocate for the funding to come home to support our local groups, organizations and most importantly, the artists.

“Investing in the arts is an investment in our communities and in the quality of life for residents. These groups do tremendous work, often with limited resources. This funding helps them keep their doors open, expand programming, and reach new audiences,” **stated NYS Assemblyman Joe DeStefano, 3rd Assembly District.**

“These investments will not only strengthen our communities and serve as economic drivers but also enrich our local culture through support of the arts. I was proud to work with Senator Murray and Assemblyman DeStefano to advocate for this funding which will go a long way in supporting some great organizations,” **stated NYS Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo, 7th Assembly District.**

The following organizations in the 3rd Senate District received NYSCA grant awards: ArtBeat LI Inc., Arts Project of Cherry Grove, Center for Environmental Education (CEED), Herstory Writers Network Inc., Patchogue Arts Council Inc., Performing Arts Center of Suffolk County, Plaza Mac Inc., and multiple disciplines within the Long Island Arts Alliance. These grants are an important investment in the arts and culture sector, which plays a key role in supporting local economies, creating jobs, and bringing communities together.

The awarded funds will help these organizations continue their creative work, expand access to the arts, and reach new audiences through innovative programming and community engagement. Arts and cultural institutions not only enhance our quality of life, but also inspire creativity, education, and economic activity throughout New York State. This year's overall investment of \$161-million in NYSCA is expected to generate an overall return of over \$160-billion to NYS, which is more than the agriculture sector, construction sector and retail sector. It is also expected to create over 400,000 jobs.

To the recipients of these well-deserved grants, **Senator Murray, Assemblyman DeStefano and Assemblyman Gandolfo all say,** "Congratulations and thank you for your continued commitment to enriching our communities through the arts."

###