

Arts for Illinois: A statewide, collaborative online platform to unite Illinoisans by sharing free art experiences during this unprecedented time



Illinois Creative Relief Fund Established in Response to COVID-19

ABOUT ARTS FOR ILLINOIS

Arts for Illinois is a collaboration between the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago, led by Illinois First Lady MK Pritzker and Chicago First Lady Amy Eshleman. The new online platform features talented artists – performers, singers, poets, painters, writers and many more from across Illinois – who have made their works available for the public’s enjoyment while at home during these challenging times. This platform is a place to connect, express and inspire. A place for comfort, laughter and healing among all residents.

This statewide initiative comes at a time of unprecedented strain on the arts and cultural community as a result of COVID-19. Arts for Illinois also launched the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, which will provide immediate relief directly to individual artists and artisans, including stage and production crew members and part-time cultural workers, as well as art organizations

The creative energies, talents and passions of Illinois’ art community remain strong. Arts for Illinois puts art back into our communities at a time when connection is critical.

ArtsForIllinois.org: A new open content platform to unite Illinois citizens through the arts.

- Creates opportunities for connection, expression, inspiration
- Combats the social isolation of this health crisis
- Supports contributions to the Arts for Illinois Relief Fund by individuals and foundations
- Provides a portal for grant applications from individual artists

ABOUT THE ARTS FOR ILLINOIS RELIEF FUND

The Arts for Illinois Relief Fund is intended to provide financial relief directly to individual artists and artisans, including stage and production crew members and part-time cultural workers, as well as art organizations, through grants administered by Arts Work Fund and 3Arts, to help those unable to work or keep their lights on during this temporary shut-down. This includes all artists and artisans – from painters, photographers, and musicians to lighting designers, costume designers, and audio artists, and from traditional dance artists and storytellers to filmmakers and videographers.

The fund is a public-private partnership between the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, the broader philanthropic community, and the residents of Illinois. It can accept donations from individuals, foundations, and public sources. Fund goals include:

- Statewide fund, multidisciplinary across entire creative sector
- Supports individual artists, part-time, and contract culture workers impacted by COVID-19 related closures, as well as art organizations
- Provides financial support to applicants in a timely fashion
- Centers racial equity and equitable access to people with disabilities
- Able to receive public funds, foundation funds, and individual donations as tax-deductible charitable contributions
- Able to accommodate existing restrictions on donations from various funders (geographic, discipline-specific, etc.)
- Leverages the strengths of all partners related to communications, fundraising, and equitable and efficient grantmaking
- Offers as much rigor as possible around fraud