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COVID-19 Response Fund announces new round of grants to local arts organizations to support artists, staff and online programming

Applications now being accepted through May 1 for the next round of funding

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CHARLOTTE – In a supplemental round of grants from the COVID-19 Response Fund, more than \$434,000 was awarded to five local arts and cultural organizations to support artists, staff and online programming for children and families.

To date, more than \$6 million has been granted to a range of nonprofits – from large institutions to small grassroots organizations – that primarily focus on human services. However, the grants committee has received grant applications from a wide range of nonprofits with compelling circumstances, including local arts groups.

“These latest grants will support artists, musicians, educators, professionals and more, as well as provide for online programming for families,” said Michael Marsicano, Foundation For The Carolinas president and CEO. “It’s important to remember that people working for nonprofits have also been severely impacted and are in need of support. In addition, arts and cultural institutions play a vital role in our community’s quality of life, and these grants will help support the continuation of that work online, particularly efforts aimed at children and families.”

The latest grants include:

- \$25,000 to **Arts+** to support the shift to virtual programming for children.
- \$50,000 to the **ASC Mecklenburg Creatives Resiliency Fund** to support local artists and performers who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- \$185,000 to the **Charlotte Ballet** to support its artistic, academy, education and production staff.
- \$150,000 to **Children’s Theatre of Charlotte** to support the artistic and creative staff and ensure online programming for children.
- \$24,232 to **JazzArts Charlotte** to support musicians and efforts to shift to online performances and educational programs.

Grant applications for the next cycle of funding – which is open to all Mecklenburg County 501(c)3 nonprofits that meet eligibility – are now being accepted and must be submitted by **May 1 at noon**. Visit uwcentralcarolinas.org/grants/COVID for eligibility requirements and to apply. A COVID-19 Response Fund Grants Committee has been established to review and distribute grants from the fund.

“The impact of this crisis reverberates throughout every aspect of our community,” said United Way of Central Carolinas President and CEO Laura Yates Clark. “These funds help to ensure the people doing the work required within these agencies are able to do so. It’s about coming together for the greater good.”

The COVID-19 Response Fund is administered through a partnership between Foundation For The Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas, in close coordination with the

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City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Since the fund was launched on March 16, the more than \$16 million raised has come from corporations, foundations, individuals and local government.

To contribute to the COVID-19 Response Fund, visit [HelpCharMeck.org](https://www.helpcharmeck.org). Corporations and foundations that wish to make a donation may contact either Catherine Warfield, Senior Vice President of Philanthropic Advancement at FFTC, at 704.973.4515 or cwarfield@fftc.org; or Clint Hill, Chief Development Officer at United Way of Central Carolinas, at 704.371.6359 or chill@uwcentralcarolinas.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is the sixth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of \$2.6 billion, FFTC's mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit www.fftc.org.

About United Way of Central Carolinas

United Way fights for the education, health and financial stability of every person in our region, improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of local communities in Charlotte/Mecklenburg, Mooresville/Lake Norman, and Anson, Cabarrus and Union counties. For more information, please visit [uwcentralcarolinas.org](https://www.uwcentralcarolinas.org).

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