LONG ISLAND ARTS ALLIANCE
LI GRANTS
ACADEMY

MONDAY JUNE 16, 2026 | ZOOM

NYSCA FY2027:

Fiscal Sponsorship Through LIAA

Presented by Lauren Wagner, Executive Director - LIAA

BEFORE WE BEGIN

A Few Quick Housekeeping Notes

Stay Muted

Please keep your microphone muted throughout the presentation. We'll have time for questions at the end.

Use the Chat

Drop your questions in the chat as they come up. I'll address them during the Q&A at the end of the presentation.

We're Recording

This session is being recorded. The recording and the slide deck will be emailed to all registrants within 24 hours.

Follow-Up Resources

You'll also receive the intake form link, key deadlines, and additional resources by email. Nothing to write down right now.

TODAY'S AGENDA

What You'll Walk Away Knowing

01

What Fiscal Sponsorship Is

How it works through LIAA, and why it exists for artists and small organizations.

02

The Funding Landscape

The four programs serving Long Island artists and arts organizations, including how SCR fits in and the either/or rule it creates.reak down all of the available opportunities.

03

Fiscal Sponsorship Through LIAA

A closer look at the two grants you can access through us: NYSCA Support for Artists and Support for Sponsored Organizations.

04

Eligible vs. Ineligible Projects

What NYSCA will fund, what it won't, and the common red flags that disqualify applications before review.

05

How to Apply Through LIAA

The process, the timeline, the fees, and the real next steps for Long Island artists and organizations.

THE BASICS

What Fiscal Sponsorship Actually Is

Artists and unincorporated groups cannot apply directly to NYSCA. LIAA acts as the applicant on your behalf.

01

You bring the project

You work with LIAA to develop and submit your application to NYSCA.

02

LIAA holds the grant

If awarded, NYSCA sends the funds to LIAA, which acts as the fiscal home for the grant.

03

You receive the money

LIAA pays you directly. You keep full creative control and ownership of the work, always.

Fiscal sponsorship is not a loan, a partnership, or a revenue share. It is an administrative arrangement that makes you eligible to apply.

THE FULL LANDSCAPE

Four Programs. Not Interchangeable.

Four funding opportunities serve Long Island artists and arts organizations. Understanding the differences — in eligibility, scope, and purpose — is essential to choosing the right one for your project.

	NYSCA Support for Artists	NYSCA Support for Sponsored Organizations	NYSCA Support for Organizations	HAC Statewide Community Regrants (SCR)
Eligibility	Individual NY State artists with a fiscal sponsor	Nonprofits without 501(c)(3), Unincorporated entities & and programs operating under a larger organization	501(c)(3) orgs in NY State with minimum $20,000 operating expenses	Individual artists and 501(c)(3) orgs in Nassau & Suffolk.
What It Funds	Creating new work and presenting it to the public	Operational support: programming, day-to-day expenses, salaries	Operational support: programming, day-to-day expenses, salaries	Programming open to the public and educational programs in schools and community orgs
Award	$10,000	$10,000 to $49,500	$10,000 to $49,500. Multi-year possible.	New Works: $5,000 · Arts Ed: $5,000 · Community Arts: $7,500
Administered By	NYSCA (via LIAA as fiscal sponsor)	NYSCA (via LIAA as fiscal sponsor)	NYSCA Directly (Prequalify in SFS!)	Huntington Arts Council

SCR DEEP DIVE

A Closer Look at Statewide Community Regrants

What SCR Is

SCR = Statewide Community Regrants. It's NYSCA's program for smaller, community-rooted grants — funded by NYSCA, administered locally on Long Island through the **Huntington Arts Council (HAC)**.

Contact: Patty Eljaiek
peljaiek@huntingtonarts.org

SCR Deadline: September 1, 2026

Three SCR Funding Categories

New Works Artist

$5,000

Arts Education

$5,000

Community Arts

$7,500

Different application. Different panel. Different timeline. Same NYSCA dollars.

IMPORTANT RULE

The Either/Or Rule

> "An artist may apply for either NYSCA Support for Artists or NYSCA Statewide Community Regrants, but not both, in the same grant year."

Why We Walk Through SCR With You

This rule is why we don't skip SCR in this session. If your project is smaller in scope, community-rooted, or education-focused, SCR through the Huntington Arts Council may genuinely be the **better fit** — and you have until September 1, 2026 to apply there.

The Right Principle

Pick the program that matches your project — not the one with the bigger dollar amount. A $7,500 award from SCR for the right project will always outperform a $10,000 application that doesn't align with the program's purpose.

IMPORTANT RULE

The Skip-a-Year Rule

Apply this year. Miss next year.

If you apply for NYSCA Support for Artists this cycle, you cannot apply next year — **even if you are not funded.**

What This Means Practically

Burning a slot on a project that isn't ready costs you two years, not one.

Our Strong Recommendation

Bring your strongest, most developed project this cycle — or refine it and come back next year. We would rather help you wait and succeed than rush and lose two years of eligibility.

YOUR OPTIONS

Your Two Opportunities Through LIAA

Support for Artists

$10,000 creative fee for an individual New York State artist creating new work in 2027.

Scored on a single criterion: Creativity. No budget required. No receipts required.

Support for Sponsored Organizations

$10,000 to $49,500 for groups and programs that cannot apply to NYSCA directly — including nonprofits without their own 501(c)(3), unincorporated entities, and distinct programs operating under a parent organization.

Scored on three criteria: Creativity, Public Service, and Managerial & Financial Capacity.

The next slides walk through each opportunity in detail — including who qualifies, how the money works, and what the panel actually looks for.

SUPPORT FOR SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

Support for Sponsored Organizations: Who This Is For

Nonprofits Without a 501(c)(3) Yet

A nonprofit corporation operating in NY State that does not yet have its own 501(c)(3). A pending IRS application is acceptable if disclosed in the application.

Unincorporated Entities

An unincorporated entity operating in NY State. Note: LLCs and LLPs are **not eligible** for fiscal sponsorship through this program.

Distinct Programs Under a Larger Organization

A distinct program operating under a parent organization — such as a public arts entity inside a university or a program embedded within a larger nonprofit.

⚠ If you already have your own 501(c)(3), you apply to NYSCA directly. You do not need a fiscal sponsor, and LIAA cannot sponsor your application.

SUPPORT FOR SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

Support for Sponsored Organizations: How It Works

$10K–$49...	50%	$20K
Award Range	**Request Cap**	**Minimum Threshold**
Multi-year awards are possible for strong organizational applicants.	Your request cannot exceed 50% of your FY2025 operating expenses.	At least $20,000 in FY2025 NY arts and culture operating expenses required.

Scoring: Three Criteria, Not One

Organizations are evaluated on **Creativity**, **Public Service**, and **Managerial & Financial Capacity**. A score of **2 or below on any single criterion** makes the application ineligible — regardless of scores on the other two. All three must hold up.

SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Support for Artists: Who This Is For

NY State Resident, 18+

You must be a New York State resident and at least 18 years old as of the application deadline.

Did Not Apply in 2025 for 2026 Funding

Even if they were not awarded, a 2025 application disqualifies them from this cycle.

Not Enrolled as a Full-Time Student

Full-time students are not eligible.

SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Support for Artists: How It Works

The Eight Funded Disciplines

- Choreographer Commissions
- Composer Compositions
- Film, Media, and New Technology
- Folk and Traditional Arts
- Interdisciplinary
- Literature
- Theater Commissions
- Visual Arts

What the guidelines say:

> ***"Support for Artists funding supports the creation and development of new artistic work. Projects that seek to facilitate or present the work of others (e.g., curatorial, festival, or educational projects) are not eligible. ... These funds are meant to serve as a commissioning fee or artist fee and are not directly tied to specific production expenses"***

The Window

Creative activity must take place between **January 1 and December 31, 2027**. No budget required. No receipts required.

PANEL GUIDANCE

The Creative Work IS the Work

> Trust that the work is enough.

What Artists Often Do

Artists have learned to defend their practice by adding workshops, education components, toolkits, and frameworks — as if making the work is not sufficient justification on its own. This is an understandable reflex. It is also unnecessary for this grant.

What the Rubric Actually Scores

The panel is designed to foreground:

- The clarity of the new work
- The distinctiveness of the artist's vision
- How the project represents a meaningful next step in the artist's practice

Projects framed primarily as educational programs are evaluated differently in the guidelines than projects that center the artist's own creative development.

NOT ELIGIBLE

What Is NOT Eligible

Work Already Completed

NYSCA Support for Artists funds the *creation* of new work in 2027. Retroactive funding for finished projects — no matter how strong — will be rejected at the panel stage.

General Operating Support

A grant to support your practice broadly, with no specific project at its center, does not meet the program's requirements.

Tuition or Degree Work

Academic programs, degree requirements, or coursework as the primary project are explicitly ineligible.

Work Outside the 2027 Window

All creative activity must occur between January 1 and December 31, 2027. Work that falls outside this window cannot be included.

Education Programs Dressed as Creative Work

Projects framed primarily as workshops, toolkits, or educational frameworks — rather than centering the artist's own creative development — are evaluated differently under the guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

The Public Component

Every funded project must include at least **one public, free, open-facing element in New York State** during 2027. The threshold is intentionally low — a single accessible event satisfies it.

Staged Reading

A reading at a library, community center, or other accessible venue.

Work-in-Progress Showing

An open rehearsal, preview, or draft presentation of the work.

Artist Talk

A conversation or presentation about the work and your creative process.

Gallery or Online Presentation

A gallery showing of draft work, or an online component accessible to the public.

It does not have to be a fully mounted production. The requirement exists to connect the funded creative work to New York's public.

SCORING

How the Panel Reads Your Application

Support for Artists is scored on **one criterion: Creativity**. Scored 5 to 0. A score of **2 or below makes the application ineligible**, regardless of any other factors.

1

Clear Artistic Vision

A compelling demonstration that this is new work being created — not existing work being presented or funded retroactively.

2

Relevance to Your Development

How does this project connect to where you are in your practice, and where you are headed?

3

Significance and Distinctiveness

What makes this work innovative? What distinguishes it within your discipline?

4

Creative Contribution

How does the project contribute to and advance your artistic discipline more broadly?

5

A Realistic Plan

Can you actually complete this work in 2027? The plan must be credible and achievable.

6

Fit With LIAA's Mission

How does the project align with the sponsoring organization's mission to support Long Island arts?

CASE STUDIES

Two Projects, Two Outcomes

Let's walk through real-shaped examples of projects artists might bring to LIAA — how each one would land with a panel, what makes it eligible or not, and what to take from each scenario.

Case 1: The Photographer

A completed body of documentary work. Exhibition and catalog funding requested.

Case 2: The Ceramicist

New work requiring equipment she doesn't yet have. A clear next step in her practice.

ASE 1

The Photographer

The Artist and the Work

Maria is a Long Island photographer who, over the past two years, has documented the working waterfront on the North Fork — fishing fleets at Greenport, oyster farms in Peconic Bay, the last generation of baymen — through a series of 30 large-format photographs. The series is finished. Critics have called it "essential documentation of a vanishing way of life."

What She Wants to Fund

- Archival framing for all 30 prints
- Gallery rental in Greenport for a 6-week exhibition
- Design and printing of a 64-page catalog
- Distribution to Long Island libraries and schools

CASE 1

Why This Is Ineligible — and a Path Forward

Why This Is Ineligible

NYSCA Support for Artists is a creative fee for the *creation of new work in 2027*. The series is already complete. Framing, exhibition costs, and catalog production for an existing body of work read as retroactive funding. The panel scores on "clear artistic vision demonstrating the creation of new work" — and rejects applications that look like funding for work already made.

No matter how strong the existing work, a completed project cannot anchor this application.

A Path Forward

Maria could propose **new photographic work in 2027** that builds from this series — a next chapter, a related body of work, documentation of a community the first series did not reach.

The Greenport exhibition could then serve as the **public component** of the new project. Not the project itself. That repositioning changes everything about how the panel reads the application.

CASE 2

The Ceramicist: A Clear Eligible Project

The Project

A Long Island ceramic artist proposes a new body of work in 2027 that requires a specific kiln she does not currently have access to. The new work builds clearly from her existing practice — but pushes her in a new direction. Different scale, different firing technique, work she simply cannot make on her current equipment.

Why This Is Eligible

- **Clearly new work** — not a continuation of existing pieces
- **Clearly aligned** with her established practice
- **Clearly a meaningful next step** — different scale, different technique
- A **credible, achievable plan** for 2027

This is exactly what the Creativity criterion is designed to reward.

CASE 2

Case 2: About the Money

No budget.
No receipts.

The $10,000 is a **creative fee paid directly to you, the artist**. If a new kiln is what you need to complete the project, you can use the funds to buy the kiln. You are not required to submit a budget or justify line items. You will not be asked for receipts at year-end.

The funds are yours, as the artist, to make the work happen. Spend them on what the work requires. That is the design of this grant.

HOW TO APPLY

How to Apply Through LIAA

The process, the timeline, the fees, and the real next steps.

TIMELINE

The LIAA Process and Timeline

1. **June 17, 2026 · 5:00 PM**
   Deadline to complete the LIAA intake form. This is your first step — submitting the intake form does not guarantee sponsorship, but it opens the conversation.

2. **Before June 23, 2026**
   Required pre-submission meeting with LIAA (if selected to move forward). We will review your project, ask questions, and give you substantive feedback before anything goes to NYSCA.

3. **July 3, 2026 · 5:00 PM**
   Firm deadline to submit all grant materials to LIAA. We review and submit to NYSCA on your behalf — you never log in to NYSCA platforms directly.

4. **July 8, 2026 · 5:00 PM**
   NYSCA deadline (LIAA's internal submission target). All materials must be in our hands by July 3 to meet this date.

5. **January 2027**
   Funds awarded, contract begins. You make the work and host your public component throughout 2027. Final reporting is submitted through LIAA at year-end.

⚠ NYSCA rules limit the number of applications LIAA can sponsor. We may not be able to accommodate every request. Submitting the intake form is the first step — not a guarantee.

TRANSPARENT PRICING

What LIAA Charges, and What It Covers

The Fee

LIAA retains 5% of the awarded grant as the fiscal sponsorship fee. If the grant is not funded, there is no cost.

Support for Artists: $10,000 award → LIAA fee: $500 → You receive: $9,500

Support for Sponsored Organizations: 5% of your award. Maximum fee: $2,475 on a full $49,500 award.

What the Fee Covers

- Holding and disbursing grant funds
- All NYSCA reporting on your behalf
- Year-end financial reconciliation and 1099 issuance
- Coaching through application development
- Pre-submission review and feedback
- Acting as the legal and administrative home for the grant

The fee is deducted before funds are paid out to you. You never write LIAA a check. It comes out of the award itself.

HOW YOU GET PAID

Tax and Payment Structure

Fiscal sponsors can only pay one legal entity. Here's what that means for you.

The Two Installments

You receive the full award (minus the 5% LIAA fee) in two installments, both in the same tax year.

Installment 1 — 90% of net award

Released once NYSCA funds arrive and your completed W-9 is on file. Support for Artists example: $8,500

Installment 2 — Final 10%

Released after you submit all required final reporting to NYSCA. Support for Artists example: $1,000

The 1099 and Your Responsibilities

LIAA will issue you a 1099-NEC for the full net award at year-end. You are the only person responsible for reporting it. A fiscal sponsor does not split funds or issue 1099s between collaborators.

Your Role

- Report the full amount as income
- You are taxed only on what you personally keep
- Collaborator payments can be deducted as business expenses if properly documented

⚠ This is general guidance based on LIAA's experience with sponsored projects. It is not legal or tax advice.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

LI Grants Academy

Practical grant guidance for Long Island creatives.

LI Grants Academy offers workshops, clinics, coaching, and webinars timed to major funding deadlines — open to individual artists, collectives, and arts organizations across Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Where It Came From

The Academy launched in response to *Sustaining Long Island's Creative Spark*, a 2025 report from the Center for an Urban Future and Long Island Arts Alliance, which found Long Island artists significantly underrepresented in statewide funding.

What It Hopes to Do

Close the Long Island funding gap by demystifying the grant process and connecting creatives to state, county, federal, and private funding streams — moving more dollars to more Long Island artists and organizations.

4

Artists Funded in 2025

Long Island artists receiving NYSCA support.

19

Artists Funded in 2026

Long Island artists receiving NYSCA support, 9 of them from the pilot program.

375%

Growth in One Year

What guidance, confidence, and infrastructure can do.

2026 Suffolk County Cohort: Generously sponsored by the **Suffolk County Economic Development Corporation**, making participation **free** for Suffolk-based artists and cultural groups.

WRAP-UP

Questions and Resources

Key Links

- NYSCA FY2027 Opportunities Guidelines
- LIAA Fiscal Sponsorship Artist Form
- LIAA Fiscal Sponsorship Organization Form

SCR Contact

Patty Eljaiek, Huntington Arts Council
peljaiek@huntingtonarts.org
SCR Deadline: September 1, 2026

LIAA Contact

Lauren Wagner
Executive Director
Long Island Arts Alliance

lauren@longislandartsalliance.org

Long Island Arts Alliance · LI Grants Academy