



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
FLORINE LUHR



Looking forward to 2025, we reflect on the changes initiated in 2024 to help us better understand and advance our grantees' needs and the needs of their constituents. The nonprofit sector is constantly evolving, and so too are the approaches we at **The Cullen Foundation of Western New York, Inc.** employ to support them through our grantmaking.

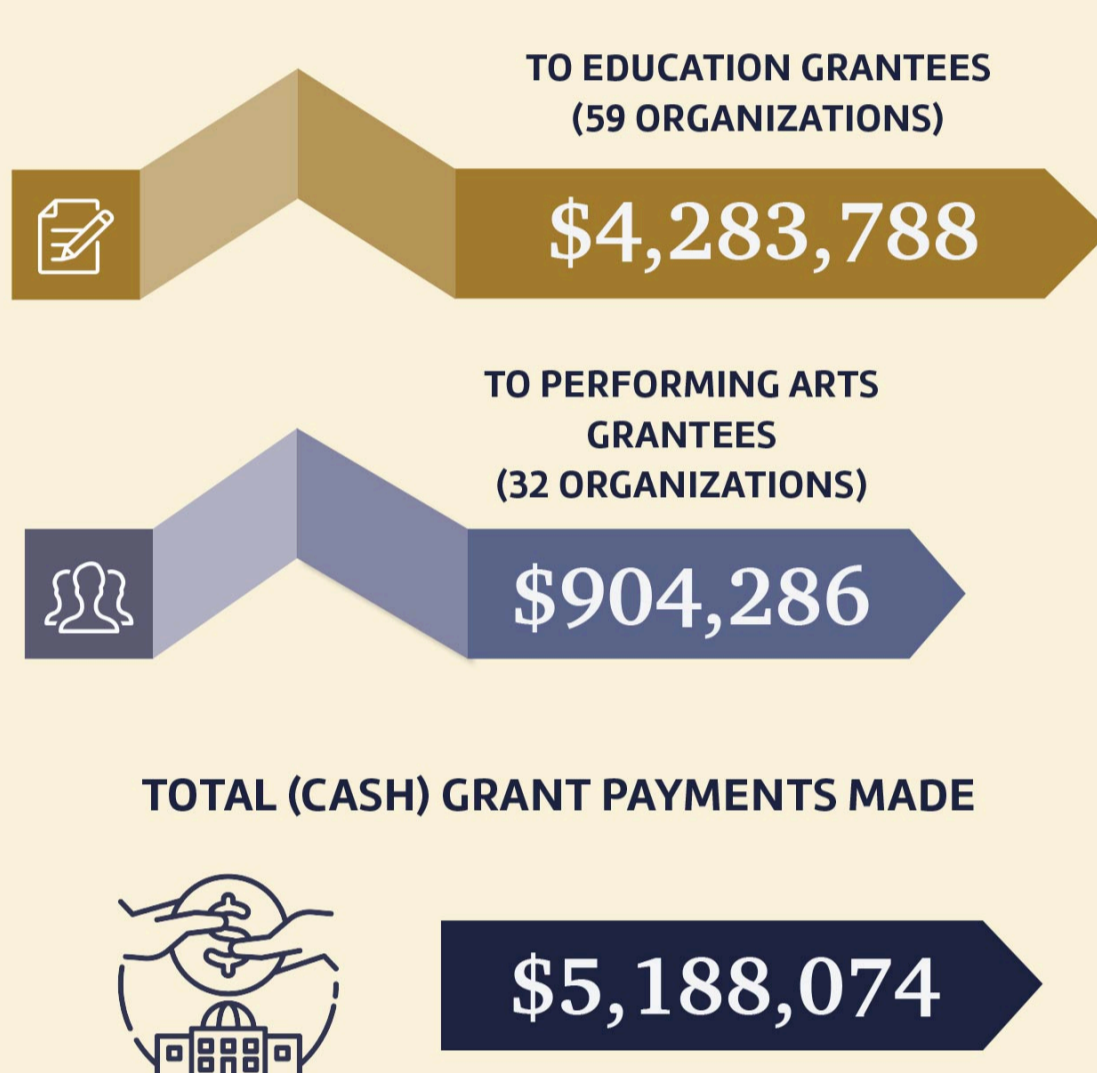
What won't change is our commitment to adjust and elevate the level and quality of assistance we provide through financial supports and through **partnership** to fulfill our mission of significantly enhancing the education of students in grades pre-K to 12 and in advancing theatre and the performing arts in Erie County.

The Directors and staff of The Cullen Foundation of Western New York, Inc. are grateful for the opportunity to partner with so many remarkable organizations that help us reach and impact WNY's residents.



<p>NEW GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024</p> <p>63 Grants to 57 Organizations</p>	<p>TO EDUCATION GRANTEEES</p> <p>40 Grantees</p>
<p>TO PERFORMING ARTS GRANTEEES</p> <p>17 Grantees</p>	<p>TOTAL AMOUNT OF NEW GRANTS AWARDED</p> <p>\$3,766,142</p>

2024 IN REVIEW
GRANT FUNDS AWARDED/PAID



FUNDING BY PROGRAM AREA IN EDUCATION

GRANT PAYMENTS MADE IN 2024

HUMAN CAPITAL	\$986,734	23%
SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS (SAP)	\$1,581,243	37%
CHARTER SCHOOLS	\$1,349,301	31%
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$351,510	8%
OTHER EDUCATION	\$15,000	0%
TOTAL \$	\$4,283,788	100%

FUNDING BY PROGRAM AREA IN PERFORMING ARTS

GRANT PAYMENTS MADE IN 2024

THEATRE	\$390,000	43%
MUSIC	\$369,490	41%
SINGERS	\$25,000	3%
DANCE	\$40,000	4%
MULTI-ARTS	\$60,000	7%
OTHER	\$19,796	2%
TOTAL \$	\$904,286	100%

ALL CASH GRANT PAYMENTS MADE IN 2024 - \$5,188,074



Organizational Highlights

- Appointed two new members to our Board of Directors, **Ramone Alexander** and **Caitlin Corr Reilly**, each bringing years of leadership experience from key roles played in the education sector.
- Welcomed a new Program Officer for Education, **Mary Lou Rubé**, and promoted a seven-year staff member, **Nick Schifano**, to Program Officer for Performing Arts, strengthening our team of professionals working with 90+ grantee partners.
- Wrapped up **10 years of charitable giving** under our current, staffed model which has disbursed nearly **\$47 million** in cash grants from 2015 through 2024 to Western New York's education and performing arts nonprofits.
- Hosted free professional development trainings attended by **123 unique nonprofit professionals from 71 local organizations** around the topics of financial management, fundraising, succession planning, and board governance. Created in partnership with New York Council on Nonprofits, Inc. (NYCON), the 6 workshops created peer learning opportunities for our grantees' staff and board members.

Education Highlights

- Through **Buffalo Urban Teaching Fellows**, an "earn and learn" teacher training program, provided \$350k in direct tuition support to **55 Teaching Fellows** enrolled in 5 local universities and serving in 33 preK-12 schools, bolstering the pipeline of future teachers preparing to **serve Buffalo's students** in the near future.
- Awarded nearly **\$900k** across **12 Buffalo Charter Schools** through our **Charter School Cohort Program**, a collaborative model focusing on **Early Literacy Tutoring**, **Early Literacy Curriculum**, **Early College**, and **Talent**.
- Seventh year** of significant program support to **Say Yes Summer Camp**, which served 1,792 Buffalo Pre-K to grade 6 students in a six-week, evidence-based, academic and enrichment program featuring 31 partner camp sites.
- Provided high dosage capacity building supports to **43 Supplemental Academic Program (SAPs)** grantees through Cullen-funded engagements:
 - 9 SAP grantees received 1:1 technical assistance from **VIA Evaluation**, **CGR**, and **Daemen IGNITE** in a range of services — from the development of logic models to data collection planning to researching best practices — all aimed at strengthening academic programs serving Buffalo's PreK to grade 12 students.
 - 14 SAP grantees underwent third party-evaluations of their SAP programs with leading community-capacity builder, **Chapin Hall**.
 - 38 SAP grantees received direct support from **Chapin Hall** in implementing academic and SEL assessment tools into their PreK to grade 12 programs.
 - 3 SAP grantees completed **Network for Good's** yearlong Jumpstart fundraising bootcamp.
- Grew the Cullen Scholars program's total investment to **\$2.4 million**, assisting 57 middle school and high school students with tuition and wrap-around supports at local private schools from 2016 to 2024.

Performing Arts Highlights

- Strengthened the local performing arts sector's **talent pipeline** through a **third cohort** of the **Cullen Fellows** program, awarding 5 promising leaders grant funding to advance their skills and learning. This 18-month program includes guidance and mentorship from cohort facilitators **Kimberly Rampersad** and **Tim Jennings** of the renowned **Shaw Festival Theatre**.
- Supported **33 WNY** performing arts organizations through a mix of program, general operating, capital, and capacity-building grants, further enabling local artistic program development, audience development, and operation stabilization to benefit WNY's enthusiastic arts audiences.