

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Laurie Cumbo, Commissioner



WHAT WE DO

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) provides financial support and technical assistance to the City's cultural community, including 34 City-owned institutions that comprise the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) and over 1,000 cultural nonprofit organizations serving constituencies in all boroughs of the City. DCLA manages a significant portfolio of cultural capital projects; provides donated materials for arts programs to public schools, cultural and social service groups; and also commissions works of public art for City-funded construction projects.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

In order to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the City's vibrant cultural life, DCLA advances equity with programs and initiatives aimed at providing arts and culture throughout the five boroughs.

In Long Island City, DCLA's Material for the Arts (MFTA) program continues to operate the City's largest creative reuse center in New York State, supporting arts and elevating artists in all five boroughs, all while reducing the amount of reusable materials which end up in the landfill. In Fiscal 2024, in addition to providing services to longtime members and operating the MFTA Education Center, MFTA served as a crucial resource for asylum seekers, providing much needed clothing and supplies to shelters. MFTA also grew its partnerships with the film and television industry to donate millions of dollars of items that would have been destined for a landfill and were instead donated to MFTA members including teachers, arts organizations, artists, City agencies, social service and social justice groups across the five boroughs.

The Cultural Development Fund (CDF), DCLA's competitive, peer-evaluated grant process that supports a broad, multidisciplinary group of diverse nonprofit organizations for their cultural services to City residents, continues to implement new reforms with an eye towards identifying and reducing bias. These reforms have reshaped how grant awards are distributed, with a profound impact on small, person of color (POC) led grantees, and first-time grantees. In Fiscal 2024, over \$52 million was distributed to 1,031 cultural groups across the City, representing the full breadth and diversity of the City's vibrant cultural life.

DCLA's capital program makes singular investments in the City's cultural infrastructure, ensuring that New Yorkers have access to world class arts facilities that are sustainable, equitable, and accessible to all. In Fiscal 2024, the Agency made new capital investments in projects including the ongoing buildout of The Africa Center's home in Harlem, renovations to the Sesame Flyers' new home in Brooklyn, an ongoing expansion project at the Staten Island Museum, the building of a new children's museum space at Queens Museum, and a new, net-zero operations center at the New York Botanical Garden.

Taken together, DCLA's work supports the cultural life of every community across New York City. The Agency will continue to build on these achievements, working with partners across City government and the cultural sector to foster a more socially and economically vibrant City for all New Yorkers.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

SERVICE 1 Provide financial support to the City’s non-profit arts and cultural sector for operations, programs and activities.

- Goal 1a Process grant payments promptly.
- Goal 1b Strengthen the infrastructure of cultural facilities by funding capital improvements.
- Goal 1c Expand resources for arts programs and public schools by increasing the supply and use of donated materials.

SERVICE 2 Promote public appreciation of non-profit arts and culture.

- Goal 2a Increase public awareness of the cultural programming offered throughout the five boroughs.

HOW WE PERFORMED IN FISCAL 2024

SERVICE 1 Provide financial support to the City's non-profit arts and cultural sector for operations, programs and activities.

Goal 1a Process grant payments promptly.

The average number of days to issue initial CDF payments decreased to 10 days in Fiscal 2024, down from 16 in the previous fiscal year. While still above the target of seven days, this continues a downward trend after the process slowed significantly to above 20 days during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fiscal 2024 data for the time to issue final CDF payments will be available later this fiscal year and reported in the Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report.

The Department awarded \$212.4 million in total financial support to qualifying organizations in the cultural community in Fiscal 2024. While this represents an 11 percent decrease from the all-time high of \$239.4 in Fiscal 2023, the Fiscal 2024 total is still the second highest fiscal year total on record. Operational support to the CIGs declined 14 percent to \$126.9 million and the number of program organizations awarded CDF payments remained largely steady at 1,031. The dollar value of contributed materials and equipment through the Materials for the Arts (MFTA) program increased 34 percent in Fiscal 2024 as the number of the donors to the program surged during the fiscal year. Through MFTA, DCLA collects unneeded items from businesses and individuals, and makes these donations available for free to its recipients at nonprofit organizations with arts programming, government agencies, and public schools.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	5-Year	Desired Direction
Operating support payments made to Cultural Institutions Group by the 5th day of each month (%)	27%	0%	81%	89%	86%	100%	100%	Up	Up
★ Average days to issue initial Cultural Development Fund payments after complying with all City requirements	12	20	21	16	10	7	7	Down	Down
★ Average days to issue final Cultural Development Fund payments	13	19	12	10	NA	5	5	NA	Down
Program organizations awarded Cultural Development Fund payments	987	1,037	1,022	1,096	1,031	*	*	Neutral	*
Financial support provided to qualifying organizations (\$000,000)	\$200.2	\$174.2	\$206.0	\$239.4	\$212.4	*	*	Up	*
★ Operational support to Cultural Institutions Group (\$000,000)	NA	\$102.3	\$121.8	\$147.1	\$126.9	*	*	NA	*
Value of contributed Materials for the Arts (MFTA) materials and equipment (\$000,000)	\$4.2	\$10.4	\$13.3	\$28.0	\$37.6	\$5.1	\$5.1	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1b Strengthen the infrastructure of cultural facilities by funding capital improvements.

DCLA's Capital Unit supports construction and renovation projects at eligible cultural institutions throughout the five boroughs. The Capital Unit initiated 89 percent of planned projects in Fiscal 2024. This represents a drop from 95 percent in Fiscal 2023 but remains above the target of 66 percent and continues a stable five-year trend of staying above target. As the Agency's constituent organizations continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, projects continue to be affected by cost escalation, which causes delays as organizations reexamine their needs and augment public and private fundraising.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	5-Year	Desired Direction
Capital projects authorized to proceed	55	22	50	42	40	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Capital projects planned that were initiated (%)	86%	81%	100%	95%	89%	66%	66%	Neutral	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None									

Goal 1c

Expand resources for arts programs and public schools by increasing the supply and use of donated materials.

MFTA’s transaction processing—the number of times MFTA participants accessed donations of free materials—has shown incredible growth as creative reuse and environmental sustainability are increasingly important values to the cultural community. The Fiscal 2024 total of 11,161 transactions is an 89 percent increase from Fiscal 2023 and nearly doubles the pre-pandemic average of over 6,000. This increase is a result of MFTA donors increasing 303 percent to 9,387 in the fiscal year. Accordingly, the number of entities served by MFTA rose 17 percent to 4111 in Fiscal 2024.

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	5-Year	Desired Direction
Schools, non-profits and City/State agencies served by Materials for the Arts	2,031	484	1,181	3,516	4,111	*	*	Up	Up
★ MFTA transactions	4,103	1,029	1,857	5,905	11,161	5,300	5,300	Up	Up
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↔ Directional Target		* None			

SERVICE 2 Promote public appreciation of non-profit arts and culture.

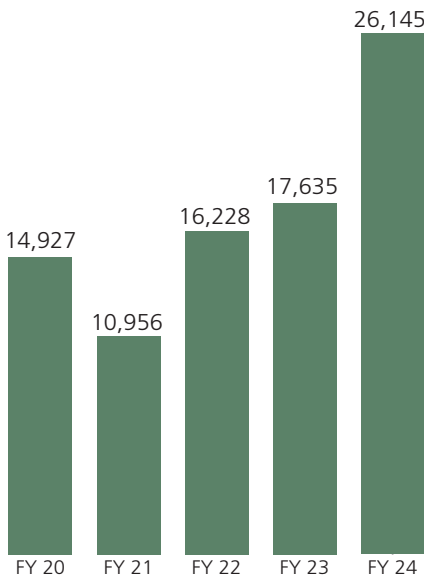
Goal 2a

Increase public awareness of the cultural programming offered throughout the five boroughs.

In Fiscal 2024, more than 26.1 million visitors attended the 34 City-owned museums, performing arts centers, botanical gardens, and historical sites that comprise the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). This represents a nearly 50 percent increase in attendance compared to Fiscal 2023, reflective of the continued return of audiences, local visitors, and tourists to the City’s cultural institutions after the COVID-19 pandemic. Also included in the Fiscal 2024 attendance numbers is approximately 1.4 million student visits to CIG institutions. To reach an even broader audience, many institutions continued to provide virtual programming comprised of performances, conversations with artists, and other cultural programs for children and adults at no cost.

DCLA implemented various outreach tools for the Fiscal 2025 CDF open application period, which closed June 27, 2024. DCLA held four virtual seminars, reaching an average of 118 participants each. Two thirds of Fiscal 2025 applicants completed renewal applications and did not participate in these seminars. The first seminar was recorded and is publicly viewable online at any time. In addition, DCLA held two office hours sessions and posted updated Frequently Asked Questions online.

Visitors to Cultural Institutions Group (000)



Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	5-Year	Desired Direction
Visitors to the Cultural Institutions Group (000)	14,927	10,956	16,228	17,635	26,145	*	*	Up	Up
– Visitors using free admission and/or tickets (%)	29%	62%	42%	27%	33%	*	*	Down	Up
★ Cultural Development Fund seminar views	NA	NA	NA	1,200	967	↕	↕	NA	Up
★ Critical Indicator	● Equity Indicator	"NA" Not Available		↕↔ Directional Target		* None			

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
E-mails responded to in 14 days (%)	90%	94%	38%	28%	32%	88%	88%	Down	Up
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	100%	NA	NA	NA	NA	90%	90%	NA	Up
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None									

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual ¹					Plan ²		5yr Trend
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	
Expenditures (\$000,000) ³	\$209.9	\$185.1	\$229.8	\$245.0	\$222.2	\$221.4	\$253.9	Up
Personnel	67	66	61	64	65	79	77	Neutral
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$6	\$0	\$0	\$7	\$0	\$0	\$0	Down
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$126.5	\$126.4	\$55.7	\$54.1	\$233.5	\$265.2	\$247.5	Up
¹ Actual financial amounts for the current fiscal year are not yet final. Final fiscal year actuals, from the Comptroller's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, will be reported in the next PMMR. Refer to the "Indicator Definitions" at nyc.gov/mmr for details. ² Authorized Budget Level ³ Expenditures include all funds "NA" - Not Available * None								

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Where possible, the relationship between an agency's goals and its expenditures and planned resources, by budgetary unit of appropriation (UA), is shown in the 'Applicable MMR Goals' column. Each relationship is not necessarily exhaustive or exclusive. Any one goal may be connected to multiple UAs, and any UA may be connected to multiple goals.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY23 ¹ (\$000,000)	Modified Budget FY24 ² (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals ³
Personal Services - Total	\$5.7	\$6.3	
001 - Office of the Commissioner	\$5.7	\$6.3	All
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$239.3	\$215.9	
002 - Office of the Commissioner	\$2.8	\$2.6	All
003 - Cultural Programs	\$90.8	\$84.1	1a, 1b
004 - Metropolitan Museum of Art	\$26.8	\$21.1	1a, 1b
005 - New York Botanical Garden	\$9.4	\$7.5	1a, 1b
006 - American Museum of Natural History	\$20.5	\$18.8	1a, 1b
007 - The Wildlife Conservation Society	\$21.5	\$19.2	1a, 1b
008 - Brooklyn Museum	\$10.1	\$9.5	1a, 1b
009 - Brooklyn Children's Museum	\$2.9	\$2.5	1a, 1b
010 - Brooklyn Botanical Garden	\$6.2	\$4.9	1a, 1b
011 - Queens Botanical Garden	\$2.0	\$1.9	1a, 1b
012 - New York Hall of Science	\$2.8	\$2.6	1a, 1b
013 - Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences	\$1.4	\$1.3	1a, 1b
014 - Staten Island Zoological Society	\$2.7	\$2.5	1a, 1b
015 - Staten Island Historical Society	\$1.2	\$1.1	1a, 1b
016 - Museum of the City of New York	\$2.3	\$2.2	1a, 1b
017 - Wave Hill	\$2.2	\$2.1	1a, 1b
019 - Brooklyn Academy of Music	\$3.3	\$4.0	1a, 1b
020 - Snug Harbor Cultural Center	\$2.6	\$2.5	1a, 1b
021 - Studio Museum in Harlem	\$0.9	\$0.9	1a, 1b
022 - Other Cultural Institutions	\$25.4	\$23.7	1a, 1b
024 - New York Shakespeare Festival	\$1.3	\$1.2	1a, 1b
Agency Total	\$245.0	\$222.2	

¹Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023. Includes all funds.
²City of New York Adopted Budget for Fiscal 2024, as of June 2024. Includes all funds.
³Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter.
"NA" Not Available
* None

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The 'Average days to issue final Cultural Development Fund payments' indicator is currently reported as NA for Fiscal 2024 because, as is part of the program process, final payments can only be issued after a review of final reporting. Final reports are due in August and final payments are not submitted until at late September.
- The 'Letters responded to in 14 days (%)' indicator is reported as NA for the fiscal years that DCLA received no letters.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- CreateNYC:
<https://createnyc.cityofnewyork.us/>
- Materials for the Arts:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/content/mfta/pages/>
- Cultural Development Fund:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/about-cdf-registration.page>

For more information on the agency, please visit: <http://www.nyc.gov/culture>.