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, Queens, DCLA's Materials for the Arts (MFTA) program continues to operate the City's largest creative reuse center in New York State, supporting affordable, accessible arts programming in all five boroughs, all while reducing the amount of reusable materials which end up in the landfill. In Fiscal 2025, DCLA continued to provide services to longtime members—including arts nonprofits, public school teachers, and City agencies with arts programming—and operated the MFTA Education Center, which offers both students and educators training and programs rooted in creative reuse. Fiscal 2025 also marked the first full year of MFTA's expanded partnership with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, which has helped to grow MFTA's relationships with the City's film, TV, and theater production communities. In the first year of this expanded partnership, MFTA distributed to its members 3.2 million pounds of free items donated by film, television, theater, and entertainment productions valued at a total of $7.4 million.

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 reforms with an eye towards identifying and reducing bias. These reforms have reshaped how grant awards are distributed, including the creation of a new Equity Fund which increases support for organizations operating in historically underserved areas of the City. In Fiscal 2025, DCLA distributed a record $59.3 million in CDF grants to 1,078 cultural organizations representing the full breadth and diversity of the City's vibrant cultural life.

DCLA's capital program makes long-term 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 2025, the Agency made new capital investments and advanced critical projects, including the renovation of "Selma's House" for the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens; the creation of a new children's museum space within the Queens Museum; the Joyce Theater's 58,000 square-foot New York Center for Creativity & Dance in the East Village; Pregones / Puerto Rican Traveling Theater's new home in the Bronx; the renovation of the Sesame Flyers' home in Brooklyn; the ongoing renovation and expansion of the Staten Island Museum; and the 150th anniversary renovation project of the Art Students League's historic landmark, purpose-built art school.

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 2025

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.

In Fiscal 2025, DCLA issued initial CDF payments in an average of 10 days, consistent with the previous fiscal year. This stabilizes a downward trend after the process slowed significantly to above 20 days during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fiscal 2025 data for the time to issue final CDF payments is preliminary at this time and will be finalized in the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report.

Operating support payments made to CIG members by the 5th day of each month fell 14 percentage points in Fiscal 2025, from 86 percent to 72 percent. Operating support payments were not achieved for the month of January due to both the timing of holidays and delays in the submission of payment requests from the institutions. The Department will continue striving to coordinate with the relevant institutions for timely submission of their obligation plans. DCLA provided $154.4 million in operating support to CIG members in Fiscal 2025, a 22 percent increase over Fiscal 2024. The Department also awarded $246.5 million in total financial support to qualifying organizations in the cultural community in Fiscal 2025. This represents a 16 percent increase over Fiscal 2024 and exceeds the all-time high of $239.4 in Fiscal 2023.

	Actual					Target		Trend	
Performance Indicators	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Program organizations awarded Cultural Development Fund payments	1,037	1,022	1,096	1,031	1,078	*	*	Neutral	*
★ Average days to issue final Cultural Development Fund payments	19	12	10	10	10	5	5	Down	Down
★ Average days to issue initial Cultural Development Fund payments after complying with all City requirements	20	21	16	10	10	7	7	Down	Down
★ Operational support to Cultural Institutions Group ($000,000)	$102.3	$121.8	$147.1	$126.9	$154.4	*	*	Up	*
Operating support payments made to Cultural Institutions Group by the 5th day of each month (%)	0%	81%	89%	86%	72%	100%	100%	Up	Up
Financial support provided to qualifying organizations ($000,000)	$174.2	$206.0	$239.4	$212.4	$246.5	*	*	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 and equipment procurement at eligible cultural institutions throughout the five boroughs. The Capital Unit initiated 84 percent of planned projects in Fiscal 2025, well above the target of 66 percent, but five percentage points below Fiscal 2024. This decrease is attributable to internal and external factors, including staffing shortages in the Capital Unit and the increasing costs to complete capital projects. 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, resulting in delays as organizations reexamine their needs and augment public and private fundraising. The Capital Unit was understaffed for the entirety of Fiscal 2025.

	Actual					Target		Trend	
Performance Indicators	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Capital projects authorized to proceed	22	50	42	40	36	*	*	Up	*
★ Capital projects planned that were initiated (%)	81%	100%	95%	89%	84%	66%	75%	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.

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. The dollar value of materials and equipment contributed through MFTA decreased 28 percent from $37.6 million in Fiscal 2024 to $27.1 million in Fiscal 2025, even though the number of donation transactions increased. Donation values are determined by the donor and fluctuate year to year depending on both the type and value of such donations. The number of donors continues to increase each year as MFTA's membership base continues to grow, reaching over 9,800 donors in Fiscal 2025. A new logo and branding initiative successfully garnered increased attention on the program. Furthermore, the number of schools, non-profits, and City/State agencies served by MFTA has been trending upwards since Fiscal 2021, as increased outreach to schools during the Covid-19 pandemic proved successful. In Fiscal 2025, 4,292 schools, non-profits, and City/State agencies were served by the program, up from 4,111 in Fiscal 2024. MFTA partners with The Arts Office at the Department of Education each school year to encourage schools to apply for membership. MFTA also offers late night shopping for teachers only, every 1st Thursday of the month, during the school year.

	Actual					Target		Trend	
Performance Indicators	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Value of contributed Materials for the Arts (MFTA) materials and equipment ($000,000)	$10.4	$13.3	$28.0	$37.6	$27.1	$5.1	$5.1	Up	Up
Schools, non-profits and City/State agencies served by Materials for the Arts	484	1,181	3,516	4,111	4,292	*	*	Up	Up
★ Materials For The Arts transactions	1,029	1,857	5,905	11,161	11,374	5,300	5,300	Up	Up

★ Critical Indicator ✹ Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇧⇩ Directional Target * None

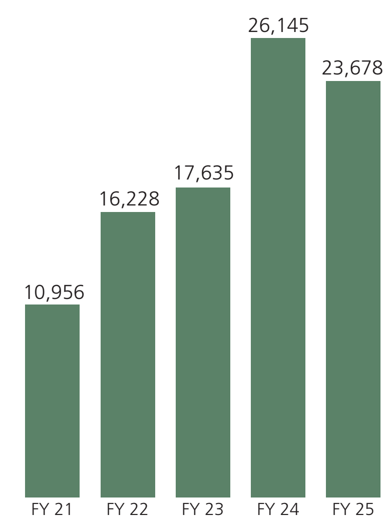
SERVICE 2 Promote public appreciation of non-profit arts and culture.

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

In Fiscal 2025, more than 23.6 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 nine percent decrease from Fiscal 2024.

DCLA implemented various tools for the Fiscal 2026 CDF open application period, which closed May 8, 2025. DCLA held four virtual seminars, reaching an average of 200 participants each. Two thirds of Fiscal 2026 applicants completed renewal applications and did not participate in these seminars, which contributed to the total number of seminar views falling 17 percent from 967 in Fiscal 2024 to 803 in Fiscal 2025. The first seminar was recorded and is publicly viewable online at any time. In addition, DCLA held one office hour session and posted updated Frequently Asked Questions online.

Visitors to Cultural Institutions Group (000)



	Actual					Target		Trend	
Performance Indicators	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5-Year	Desired Direction
Visitors to the Cultural Institutions Group (000)	10,956	16,228	17,635	26,145	23,678	*	*	Up	Up
– Visitors using free admission and/or tickets (%)	62%	42%	27%	33%	39%	*	*	Down	Up
★ Cultural Development Fund seminar views	NA	NA	1,200	967	803	⇧	⇧	NA	Up

★ Critical Indicator ✹ Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇧⇩ Directional Target * None

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual					Target		Trend	
E-mails responded to within 14 days (%)	94%	38%	28%	32%	49%	88%	88%	Down	Up
Letters responded to within 14 days (%)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	90%	90%	NA	Up

★ Critical Indicator ✹ Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇧⇩ Directional Target * None

AGENCY RESOURCES

	Actual[1]					Plan[2]		
Resource Indicators	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY25	FY26	5yr Trend
Expenditures ($000,000)[3]	$185.1	$229.8	$245.0	$222.6	$257.4	$254.0	$299.7	Up
Personnel	66	61	64	65	67	76	72	Neutral
Overtime paid ($000)	$0	$0	$7	$10	$0	$0	$0	Up
Capital commitments ($000,000)	$126.4	$55.7	$54.1	$268.5	$69.6	$409.9	$292.5	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 FY24[1] ($000,000)	Modified Budget FY25[2] ($000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals[3]
Personal Services - Total	$6.0	$5.8	
001 - Office of the Commissioner	$6.0	$5.8	All
Other Than Personal Services - Total	$216.6	$251.6	
002 - Office of the Commissioner	$2.3	$3.2	All
003 - Cultural Programs	$85.0	$90.7	1a, 1b
004 - Metropolitan Museum of Art	$21.1	$28.3	1a, 1b
005 - New York Botanical Garden	$7.5	$9.9	1a, 1b
006 - American Museum of Natural History	$18.8	$21.4	1a, 1b
007 - The Wildlife Conservation Society	$19.2	$21.1	1a, 1b
008 - Brooklyn Museum	$9.5	$11.3	1a, 1b
009 - Brooklyn Children's Museum	$2.5	$3.1	1a, 1b
010 - Brooklyn Botanical Garden	$4.9	$5.9	1a, 1b
011 - Queens Botanical Garden	$1.9	$2.6	1a, 1b
012 - New York Hall of Science	$2.6	$2.9	1a, 1b
013 - Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences	$1.3	$1.5	1a, 1b
014 - Staten Island Zoological Society	$2.5	$2.8	1a, 1b
015 - Staten Island Historical Society	$1.1	$1.2	1a, 1b
016 - Museum of the City of New York	$2.2	$2.5	1a, 1b
017 - Wave Hill	$2.1	$2.3	1a, 1b
019 - Brooklyn Academy of Music	$4.0	$7.8	1a, 1b
020 - Snug Harbor Cultural Center	$2.5	$3.1	1a, 1b
021 - Studio Museum in Harlem	$0.9	$0.9	1a, 1b
022 - Other Cultural Institutions	$23.6	$27.7	1a, 1b
024 - New York Shakespeare Festival	$1.2	$1.4	1a, 1b
Agency Total	$222.6	$257.4	

[1]Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2024. Includes all funds. [2] City of New York Adopted Budget for Fiscal 2025, as of June 2025. Includes all funds. [3] Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter. "NA" Not Available * None

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- The indicator 'Average days to issue final Cultural Development Fund payments' was updated from NA to 10 for Fiscal 2024 as program data has since been made available. 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 late September.
- The 'Letters responded to in 14 days (%)' indicator is reported as NA for the fiscal years that DCLA received no letters.
- The Fiscal 2026 target for 'Capital projects planned that were initiated (%)' in Goal 1b was raised from 66% to 75%.

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.