



Cultural Affairs

nyc.gov/culture

Presentation to QCB2

May 12, 2026



The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) is largest municipal arts funder in the country, dedicated to supporting and strengthening New York City's vibrant cultural life. The agency represents and serves non-profit cultural organizations involved in the visual, literary and performing arts; public-oriented science and humanities institutions including zoos, botanical gardens and historic and preservation societies; and creative artists at all skill levels who live and work within the City's five boroughs.



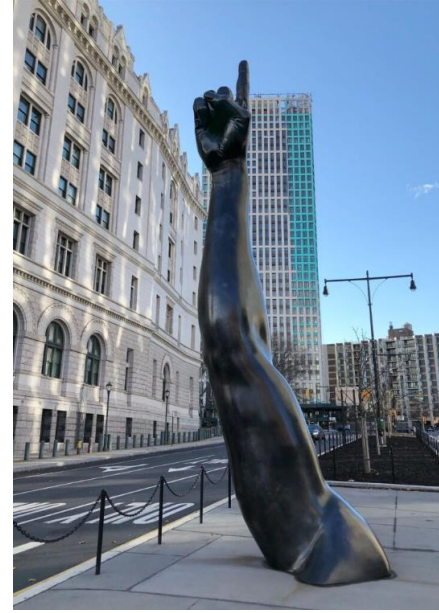
Cultural Development Fund / Program Services administers funds to over 1,000 organizations providing cultural programming for the City's residents and visitors.



Capital Projects provides capital design, construction and equipment funds for those institutions and other cultural groups in City-owned and non-City-owned facilities.



Cultural Institutions Group (CIGs) unit provides operational support for 34 major cultural institutions occupying City-owned buildings or land.



Public Art supports hundreds of site-specific projects in variety of media that are integrated into infrastructure and architecture through the Percent for Art program and other programs including City Canvas and PAIR (Public Artists in Residence).



Materials for the Arts collects unneeded items from businesses and makes them available for free to nonprofit organizations with arts programming, government agencies, and public schools.



NYC Create in Place: Safeguarding NYC's Cultural and Creative Infrastructure

The World Cities Culture Forum Leadership Exchange: Culture at Risk

- 2016: London Culture at Risk program established to provide advice, guidance, and advocacy for cultural spaces at risk.
- 2020: Proposed NYC-London Leadership Exchange suspended due to Covid.
- 2022: City Hall releases Blueprint for NYC's Economic Recovery which includes commitment to create "Culture at Risk" response team inspired by London's program. "New" New York Panel's recommendations for investing in culture include focus on affordable arts space.
- April 2023: NYC delegation travels to London to study their program.
- July 2023: Department of Cultural Affairs begins work in partnership with "New" New York team to establish NYC culture at risk program.
- December 2024: NYC Create in Place launched.



NYC Creative Economy



\$145.2B in economic output,
representing **10.6% of NYC's total**
GCP



350,000 workers employed in
creative industries



Manhattan dominates with
87.5% of all creative jobs,
driven by office-based sectors

Brooklyn: 6.6%

Queens: 2.7%

The Bronx: 0.9%

Staten Island: 0.2%

Source: NYC Economic Development Corporation, November 2025

NYC Create in Place Framework



Resource hub



Educational
webinars



One on one
consultations



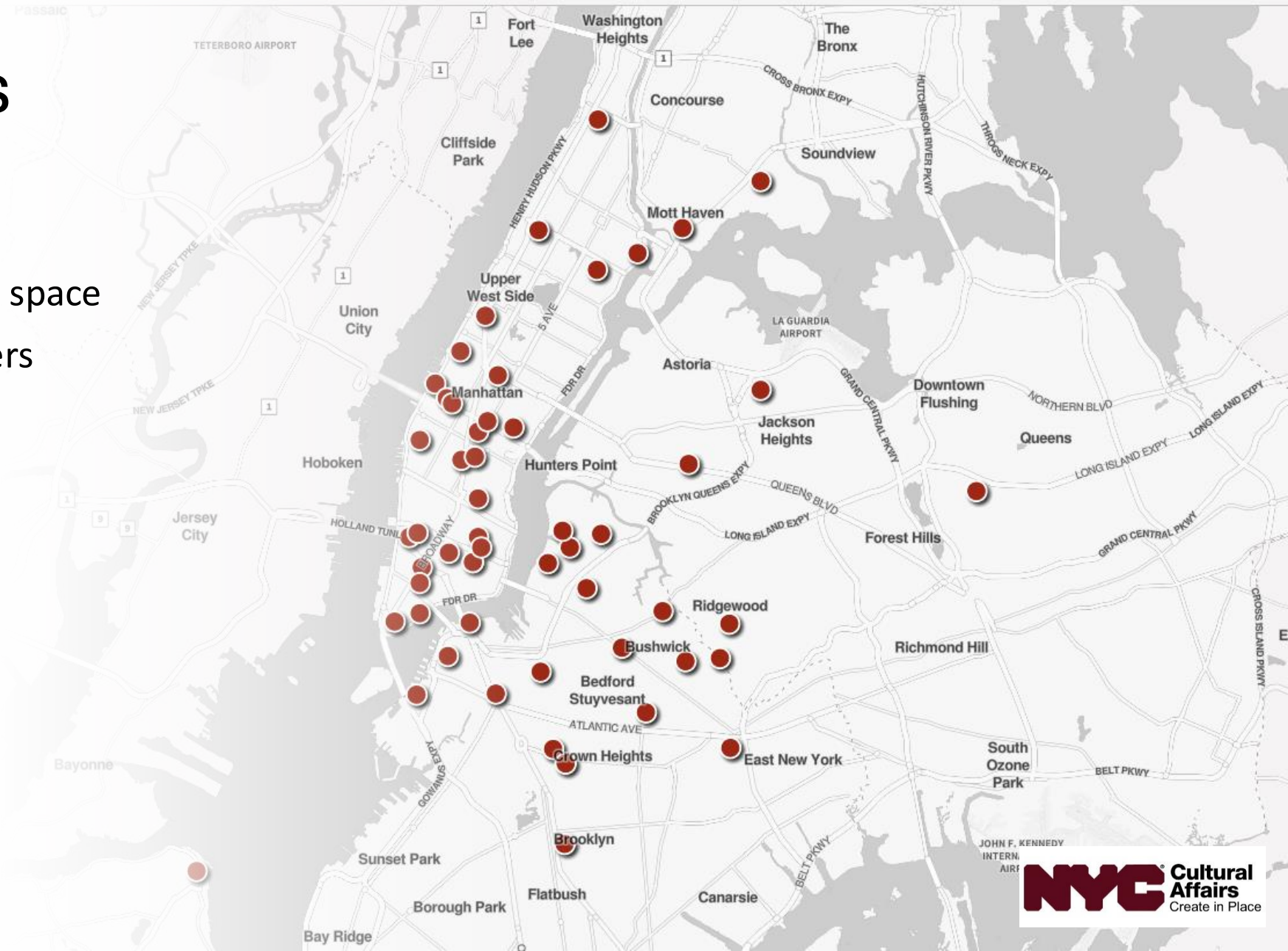
Interagency
working group



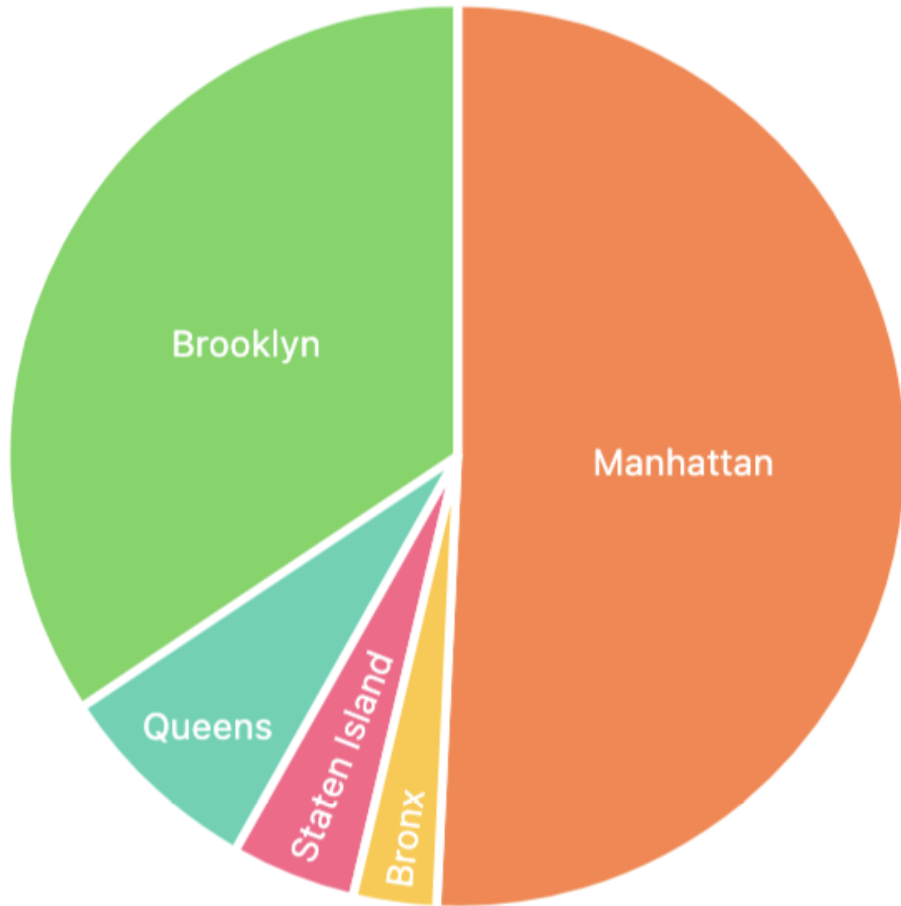
Pro bono
partnerships

Program Goals

- Stabilizing existing cultural space
- Reducing navigation barriers
- Improving access to space

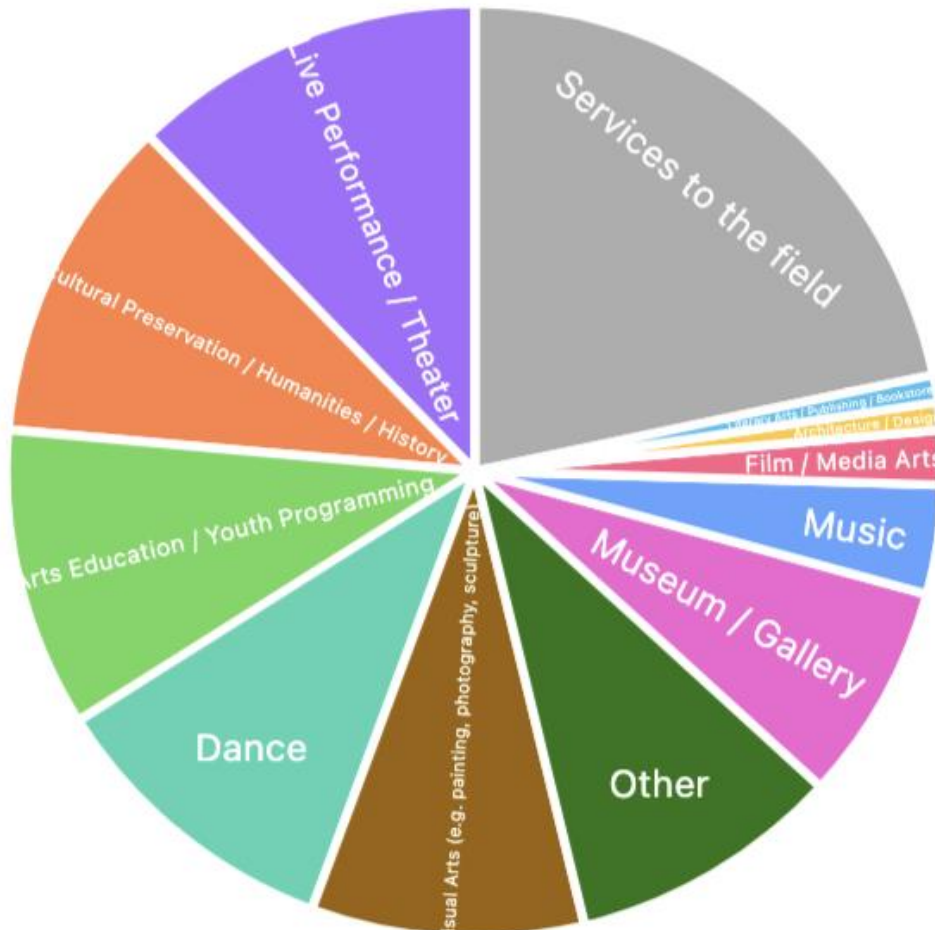


Cases by Borough



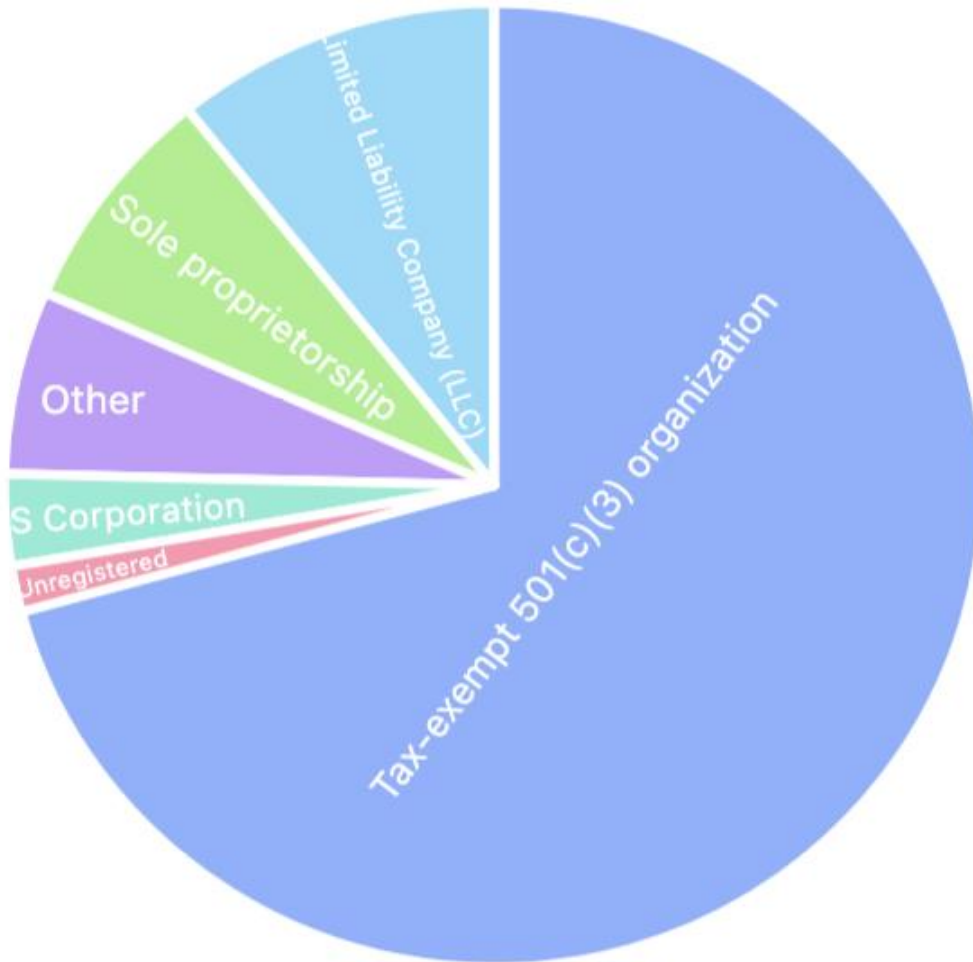
Borough	% of cases
Manhattan	51
Brooklyn	34
Queens	7.5
Staten Island	4.5
The Bronx	3

Entities by creative field



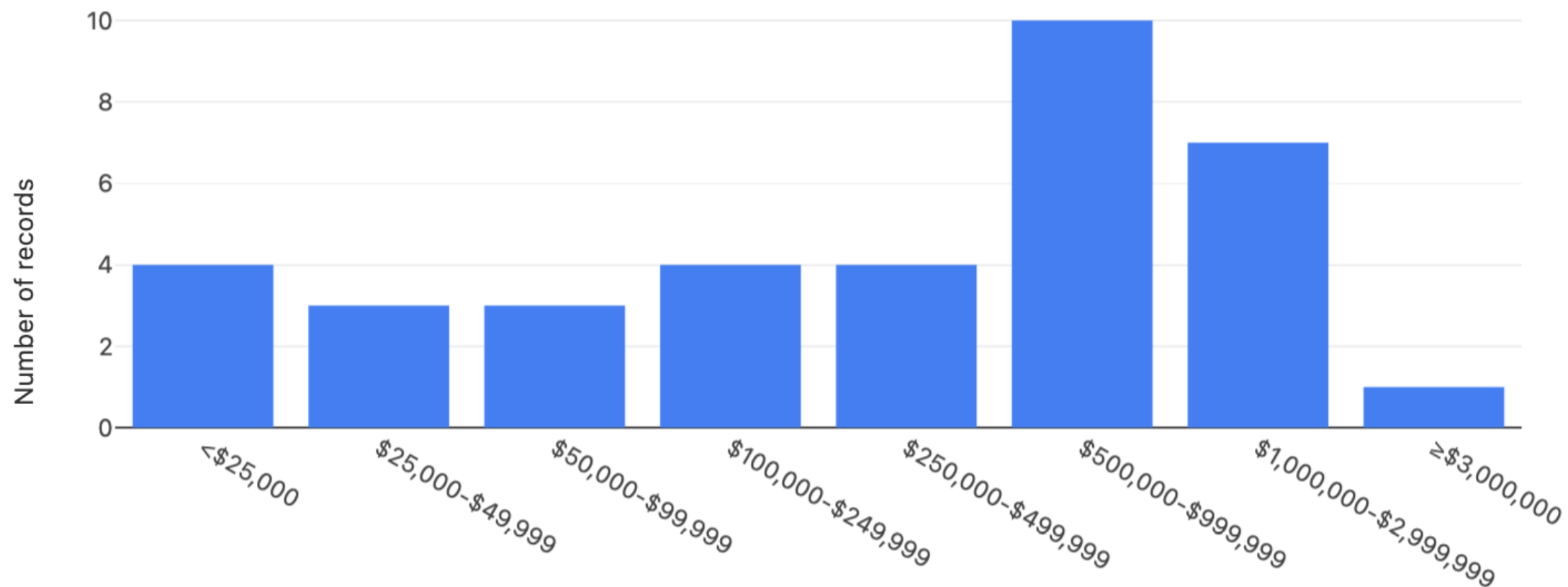
Primary creative field	% of cases
Services to the field	22
Live Performance / Theater	12
Cultural Preservation / Humanities / History	11
Arts Education / Youth Programming	10.4
Dance	10.4
Visual Arts	9.4
Museum / Gallery	7.6
Music	3.8
Film / Media Arts	2
Architecture / Design	1
Literary Arts / Publishing / Bookstores	1
Other	9.4

Types of organizational structure

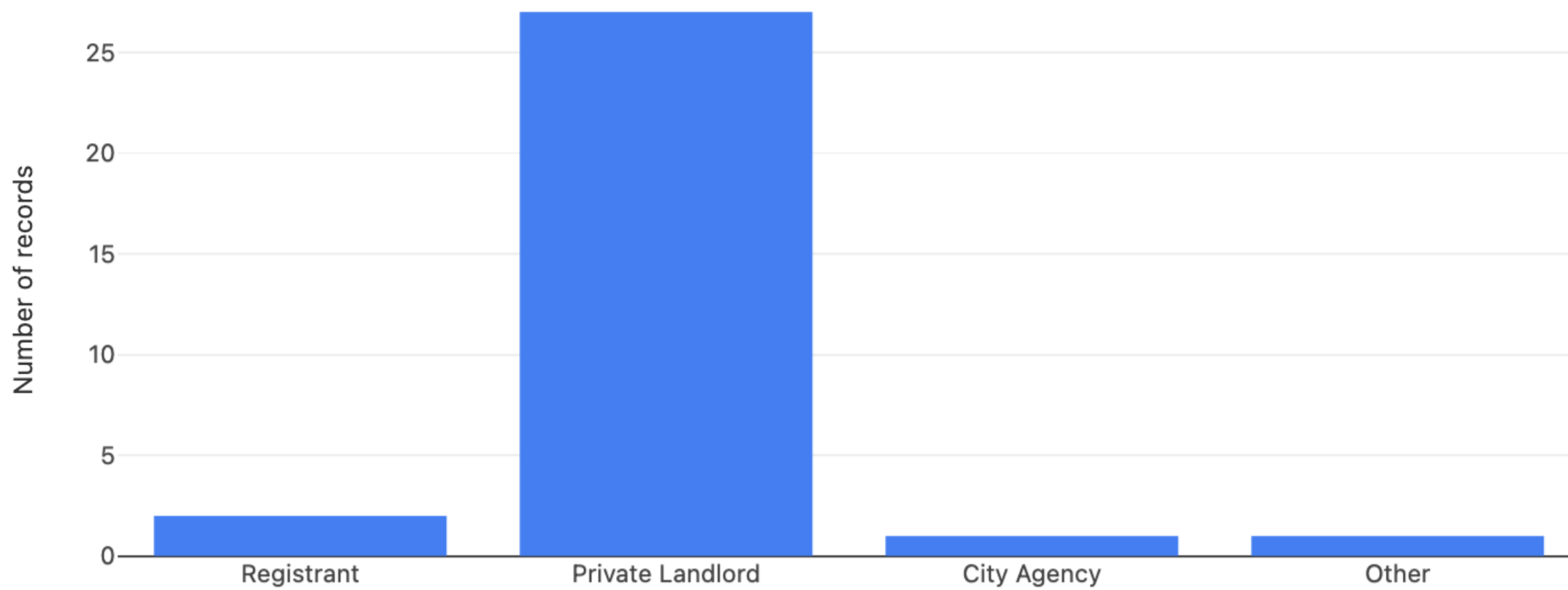


Organizational structure	% of cases
501(c)(3)	71
LLC	11
Sole proprietorship	7.5
S Corporation	3
Unregistered	1.5
Other	6

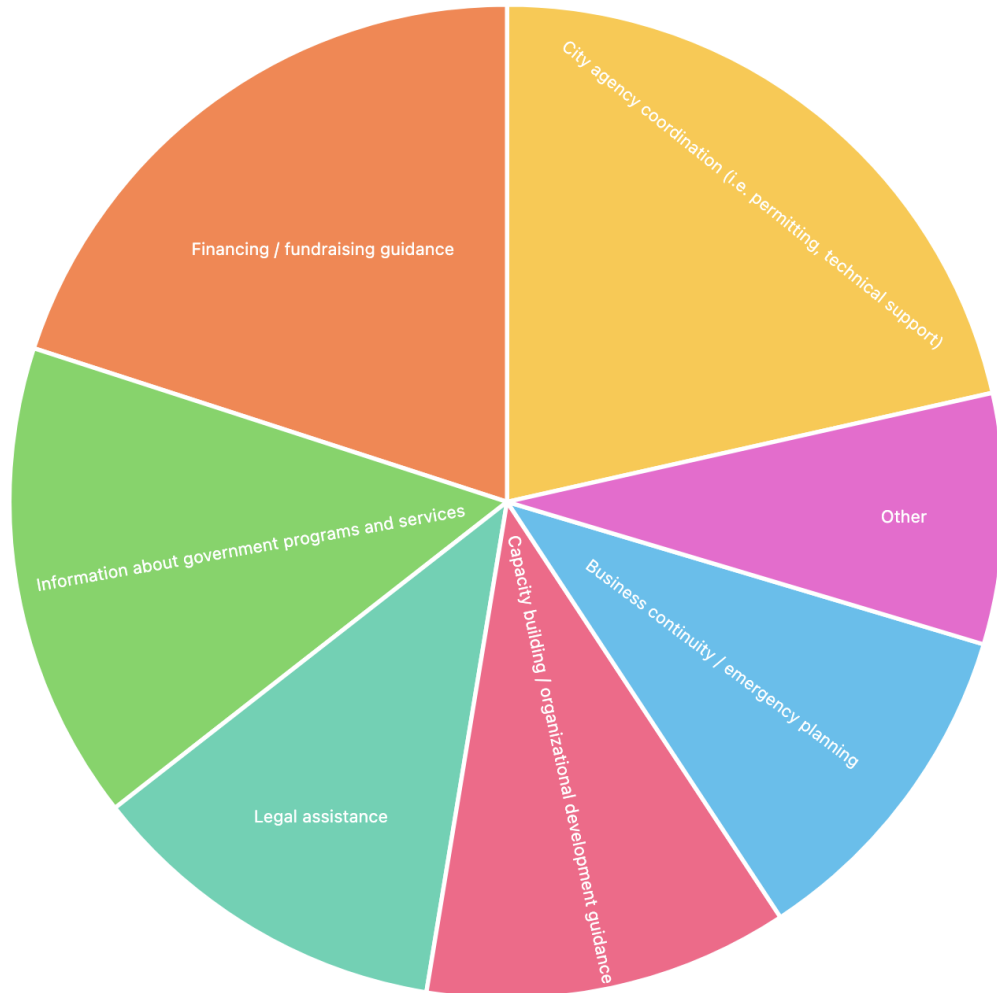
Annual Operating Incomes



Who owns your space?



Type of support needed



Primary type of support needed	% of cases
City agency coordination (i.e. permitting, technical support)	21
Financing / fundraising guidance	20
Information about government programs and services	16
Legal assistance	12
Capacity building / organizational development guidance	12
Business continuity / emergency planning	11
Other	8



Casework Summary

- 80+ organizations served
- 50% from Manhattan
- 90% budgets under \$1M
- Mix of legacy and emerging organizations
- Top needs: securing space, lease renewals, affordability
- Connected arts orgs to pro bono and city services
- Activated temporary creative uses in vacant properties

Examples of NYC Create in Place Support

wild project

NYCIP supported the nonprofit East Village theatre and arts venue in its purchase of 195 East 3rd Street, securing a permanent home for its 89-seat theatre, gallery, and community programming.



Red Hook Creative Community

NYCIP coordinated the emergency response following a five-alarm fire that destroyed the waterfront warehouse at 481 Van Brunt Street, displacing more than 100 creative small businesses, makerspaces, and artist studios—representing roughly 15% of Red Hook's local economy.



Art on the Ave

NYCIP supported a cross-agency collaboration with Art on the Ave NYC to transform a vacant city-owned property into temporary creative spaces for artists.

Thank You



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www.nyc.gov/createinplace