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LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY-ORIENTED ARTS PROGRAMS, PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITIONS

***Two Grant Programs Will Distribute More Than \$500,000 to Manhattan-Based
Artists And Arts Groups; Application Deadline is September 13, 2011***



New York, NY (June 29, 2011) – Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) is now accepting applications for two annual grants aimed at helping to bring the arts to communities throughout Manhattan, organizers announced today.

Manhattan-based artists and arts organizations in all disciplines are invited to apply for [The Fund for Creative Communities](#) (The Fund) & [Manhattan Community Arts Fund](#) (MCAF), which together will provide more than \$500,000 for arts programs, performances, and exhibitions from Washington Heights to the Battery.

The application deadline is September 13, 2011. Applications can be completed and submitted via the [LMCC website](#).

Each year, LMCC offers grants of up to \$5,000 to help individual artists and arts organizations enhance their communities with vibrant arts programming in neighborhoods throughout Manhattan. Grants will support approximately 200 events across artistic disciplines, including concerts, performances, public art, exhibitions, screenings, festivals, and readings.

The Fund awards grants ranging from \$750 to \$5,000 to small and mid-sized non-profit organizations that provide high-quality local arts programs. The program seeks to increase access to arts and cultural activities in neighborhoods throughout Manhattan and to encourage new arts activities in communities where the need exists. Individual artists can access this grant by working with a Manhattan-based non-profit organization. The Fund is part of New York State Council on the Arts' (NYSCA) statewide Decentralization program (DEC).

MCAF awards grants ranging from \$750 to \$5,000 to local arts organizations and artists that have little access to government funding sources. The grants are awarded directly to individual artists or non-profit organizations serving Manhattan communities. An MCAF grant is often one of the first grants an artist or group receives, and can help grant recipients to eventually leverage financial support from other sources. The program is made possible by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in partnership with the City Council.

“Local artists and arts groups working at the community level are doing so much to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods,” said Kay Takeda, Director of Grants and Services. “In these tough economic times, we want to make sure that they are aware of the resources we have to support their important work. ”

In July and August, LMCC will offer grant application assistance in the form of information sessions held in 12 Manhattan locations in collaboration with such organizations as Anthology Film Archives, Poets House, Studio Museum in Harlem, and Chatham Square Branch Library, to name a few. Sessions include a review of the programs and essential information to help applicants put their best foot forward. Attending a session is required for all first time applicants. Session dates and locations, as well as RSVP forms, can be found [here](#). Returning applicants who have not attended a session since 2008 are also required to attend. A session in Mandarin Chinese will be offered in Chinatown.

Highlights of the 2011 grant recipients range from visual artist Olek, who deploys individuals and objects in crocheted camouflage skin in Manhattan’s public spaces, to the People’s Theatre Project, which uses socially relevant participatory theater to empower residents in Northern Manhattan. Other grant recipients include Pan American Musical Art Research, presenter of the annual Latin American Culture Week, and Action Arts League, which presents FIGMENT NYC, an annual three-day participatory arts event on Governors Island.

About Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

For nearly 40 years, LMCC has been the leading voice for arts and culture in Downtown New York City, producing cultural events and promoting the arts through grants, services, advocacy, and cultural development programs. LMCC offers a range of funding opportunities and support services for artists working in all artistic disciplines across Manhattan, and a broad range of free programs in the visual, performing and media arts that help cultivate new arts audiences and improve the quality of urban life. LMCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported by a range of foundations, corporations, individuals and government entities. For more information visit www.LMCC.net.

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