

The Cultural Equity Groups (CEGs)

Emerging from the Civil Rights Movement, the Cultural Equity Group [CEG] are a network of community arts organizations and artists of color who came together in the spirit that all people and organizations of designated "minority groups" who make up the majority of New York State citizenry and a significant segment of the State have equal access to information, financial resources, and opportunities presented in the arts policies and the funding distribution processes available at the municipal and state levels.

CEG was founded to address, at all levels of society, the inequity in funding and policies that negatively impact the preservation, continuity and growth of our cultures, art, and communities. Further, CEG represents the cultural organizations, intellectuals, and artists that:

- established the Black, Puerto Rican/Latino and Asian Studies in our universities;
- influence the inclusion of cultural diversity in the schools;
- employ and train experts who in turn sustain culturally distinct neighborhoods that attract tourism and generate income to our communities.

Who and What Makes a CEG?

CEG's fall under three distinct categories and host the following criteria:

- Organizations that come out of the Civil Rights Movement; in existence 30 or more years;
- Mid-size entities: 10 to 24 years in operation; and
- Emerging organizations: 0 to 10 years old.

Criteria:

- Must be or a affiliated with a legally defined not-for-profit 501(c)(3), be incorporated with an EIN, and registered with the Charities Bureau or have a fiscal conduit.
- Institutions must be headed by people-of-color and have programs that reflect the culture of communities-of-color.
- Must be committed to issues of social, human, cultural rights.
- Must have a commitment to transforming communities of color.

Principle goals fall under four categories:

1. Funding

- The CEG requests a designated line item in the **State Budget of an initial \$10Million** in sustainable funding to landmark our cultures and the cultural resources of communities of color.

2. Resources

- Access to information, application and funding processes of capital dollars for equipment, capital improvements, and real estate acquisitions.
- Increased or provision of services and support for individual artists that improve the quality of life so they may better serve our communities such as health insurance, employment, subsidized studio space, and affordable housing.

3. Technical Assistance

- Assistance providing infrastructure development in the form of capacity building, organizational preparedness, professional development, and increased staff provided by intermediaries such as AHA, HAA, NoMAA, other service organizations with a focus on communities of color is needed to successfully endow a foundation of stability, growth, and sustainability to organizations in need.

Conclusion

New York State is home to a wide diversity of cultural institutions that serve an international population of communities that reside within and are visitors to New York State. The call of the CEG organizations is that all receive recognition for their contribution to the State. To date, communities of color and their organizations have been under resourced. It is the objective of the CEGs, to landmark the pioneering institutions of color that have contributed historically to the cultural life of the State. Also to assure that those mid-level and emerging institutions and artists be provided the necessary opportunity to grow and contribute to the ethnic and cultural diversity of the City.