

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

July 15, 2024

Ms. Erika Mallin
Executive Director
New York State Council on the Arts
300 Park South 10th Floor
New York, New York 10010

Dear Director Mallin,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Opus 1 Foundation for funding from the Support for Organizations Grant Program administered by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). This funding will be used to implement an initiative that promotes the work of artists with disabilities.

Founded in 2016, the Opus 1 Foundation serves artists in New York and around the world, with an emphasis on finding creative ways for art to spur social change. Through various projects, the foundation has supported children and adults in underserved areas, as well as people with disabilities. Each program is designed to have a high impact on the target population, while still providing opportunities for artists to express themselves through music, dance, theater, and other forms of art.

The requested funding will be used to support the Everyone is an Artist Program, which provides education and employment for artists with disabilities. The Everyone is an Artist Program will engage individuals and organizations in the arts, creating professional and educational programs for diverse artists in New York. The program will serve around 1,000 New Yorkers, primarily those in New York City, Long Island, and the lower Hudson Valley. NYSCA funding will allow the foundation to not only support artists in attaining greater educational and employment opportunities but to also make the arts more accessible for residents of and visitors to New York.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Abi Jimenez, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator