

# CALLING ALL ARTISTS



The **Wyoming County Rural Arts Initiative (WCRAI)** seeks to enhance the vibrant arts community that already exists in Wyoming County, New York by creating an atmosphere in which creative art of all kinds can flourish. The WCRAI will offer studios and other maker space, galleries, a website, business support services, and related shops, all designed to enhance the creative arts community in Wyoming County and expand the existing tourist trade.

The initial component of the initiative is the **WCRAI Microenterprise Program**, which offers grant funding uniquely tailored to assisting artists and artisans in establishing and enhancing businesses that are involved in the creative arts, which is broadly defined to include fine art (drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, film, writing, etc.), performance art (dance, music, theater, etc.), and craft art (ceramics, jewelry, leather crafts, woodworking, furniture-making & restoration, metalworking, quilting, etc.).

## ***The WCRAI Microenterprise Program is intended for:***

- Artists who currently rely on, or intend to rely on their art as a primary source of income;
- Artists who will establish an arts-based business in Wyoming County or move an existing arts-based business to the County, as well as artists currently living and/or working at their art in Wyoming County;
- Artists who would like to live and work in a small town setting surrounded and inspired by other artists;
- Artists who want to work in a community that values and supports art as a commercial enterprise.

## ***What does the program provide?***

- Grant funding of up to \$15,000 can be used to pay for rent and other occupancy costs associated with studio or workshop space, display space in private and cooperative galleries, and vendor space at art festivals and similar events; purchase and rental costs for tools and supplies used in the creation or display of art; fees associated with website marketing, online sales transactions, and cooperative memberships; entrepreneurship training for art-related businesses; marketing and marketing materials; and various other costs associated with the creation and display of art for commercial purposes.
- Support is available to address needs in such areas as housing, transportation, child care, part-time employment, and handicapped accessibility.
- Low-interest loans are available for additional business capital needs and one-on-one technical assistance is available to address business operational issues.
- Program clients will benefit from services, marketing, and events offered by the Arts Council for Wyoming County and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce.

For additional information regarding the program and the application process, please contact:

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