

Western Connecticut Council of Governments Special Meeting

July 22nd, 2021 at 10:00am

Teleconference

Call-in Information: 929-436-2866, Meeting Id: 632-336-1237

Agenda

1. Meeting call to order: Hon. Rudy Marconi, Chairman
2. Public Participation:
3. Action Items:
 - a. Resolution of WestCOG Designating the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut and the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County as the Regional Arts Agencies.
4. Other Business:
5. Next meeting: Thursday August 19th, 2021
6. Adjournment

ENGLISH: For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. ESPAÑOL: Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. PORTUGUÊS: Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org. FRANÇAIS: Pour obtenir de l'aide linguistique ou d'autres mesures d'adaptation, contactez WestCOG au moins cinq jours ouvrables avant la réunion à help@westcog.org. POLSKI: W przypadku pomocy językowej lub innej pomocy, skontaktuj się z WestCOG co najmniej pięć dni roboczych przed wydarzeniem w help@westcog.org

To: Western Connecticut Council of Governments
 Re: Request for designation status as regional arts agencies to meet federal funding requirement.
 Date: July 7, 2021

The Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut and Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County, regional arts organizations, request an official designation, respectively, to operate as an arts agency on behalf of WESTCOG. The purpose of the request is to meet federal funding requirements for grant applications. Both service organizations already serve municipalities represented by WESTCOG and provide capacity building support to the creative sector. (See attached) Services focus on economic development and quality of life.

The National Endowment for the Arts opened a competitive grant funding opportunity on June 22, 2021, to designate local arts agencies for sub-granting programs. **The Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut (Cultural Alliance) –is preparing an application for the Local Arts Agencies for Sub-granting. We plan to request a minimum of 150K to subgrant to our region. To qualify for the application, the Cultural Alliance needs to meet the NEA’s “designation” requirement.**

The Arts Endowment funds are intended to help support jobs in the arts sector, keep the doors open to arts organizations, and assist the field in its response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities. Organizations with small and mid-sized budgets that represent rural and suburban areas, and are applying for the first time, are encouraged to apply. The Cultural Alliance meets all other requirements, except for the designation, and poised to apply for the NEA grant. The application is due July 22, 2021.

The designation must be in the form of a resolution that assigns the CAWT and CAFC as WESTCOG’s designated authorities as regional arts organizations for the towns served.

Official designation by county government is a standard requirement for many federal funding opportunities. Council of Governments are Connecticut’s equivalent of “county government” and **the NEA will recognize a designation from WESTCOG.** Both regional arts organizations already have a relationship with WESTCOG in some capacity. Providing the designation status opens doors to more resources to the region.

Thank you, in advance, for consideration.

Regards,

Lisa M Scails,
 Executive Director
 Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut

David Green
 Executive Director
 Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County

Attachment: Service Area & WESTCOG Members

SERVICE AREA AND COG REPRESENTATION

Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut –

WESTCOG Council Members and service area:

Bethel; Bridgewater; Brookfield; Danbury; New Fairfield; New Milford; Newtown; Redding; Ridgefield; Sherman

Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County –

WESTCOG Council Members and service area:

Darien; Greenwich; New Canaan; Norwalk; Stamford; Weston; Westport; Wilton

**Resolution of the Western Connecticut of Governments
Designating the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut as the Regional
Arts Agency for the Housatonic Valley and the Cultural Alliance of
Fairfield County as the Regional Arts Agency for the South Western
Region.**

I, Lynne Vanderslice, Secretary of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (hereinafter “WestCOG”) certify that the following as a true copy of the vote of WestCOG at its meeting on July 22nd, 2021 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

RESOLVED, that the Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut is designated as the Regional Arts Agency for the Housatonic Valley Region, and the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County is designated as the Regional Arts Agency for the South Western Region.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of July 22nd, 2021.
Dated at Ridgefield, Connecticut on this Twenty Second day of July 2021

Lynne Vanderslice, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments

Date: _____

[Affix seal here]