

CREATIVES REBUILD NEW YORK

Portrait of New York State Artists

[Creatives Rebuild New York](#) (CRNY) seeks to create a portrait of the needs, circumstances, and experiences of artists, culture bearers, and culture makers ('artists') across New York State. We will use this portrait to conduct advocacy and narrative change work related to supporting the needs of individual artists.

We invite all artists who primarily reside in New York State who are 18 years old or over to participate in this survey. Please do not submit more than one response to this survey.

The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, with 32 questions about your artistic practice, financial circumstances, well-being, pandemic experience, and attitudes about policy and advocacy matters. The survey concludes with 14 questions related to geographic location and how you identify demographically. All questions are optional.

Your participation and responses will be treated as strictly confidential. All responses will be anonymized before they are analyzed, and you will not be identified in any outputs created from this survey's data. CRNY will establish and maintain appropriate security measures designed to ensure the confidentiality of participant information and to prevent unauthorized access, destruction, loss, or alteration of such data.

Accessibility. This survey is available in English and Spanish. To complete the survey in another language, or if you need someone to complete the survey on your behalf because of limited access to broadband or Wi-Fi, a disability that bars your access to the survey, or any other circumstances, please email helpdesk@creativesrebuildny.org.

Compensation. Your time is a valued resource, and we appreciate you spending it with this survey. Survey respondents can opt-in to be entered in the New York State Artist Survey Giveaway (a drawing to receive an iPad Pro 12.9", Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones, or a one-year membership to a museum or cultural institution of your choice).

Artistic Practice

We seek to learn about your experience as an artist. The phrase "artistic and cultural practice" refers to any of the work that you do as an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker.

1. Please rank up to three discipline(s) that best reflect your practice as an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker:
 - Craft
 - Dance
 - Design
 - Film
 - Literary Arts
 - Media Arts
 - Music
 - Oral Traditions
 - Social Practice
 - Theater
 - Performance Art
 - Traditional Arts
 - Visual Arts
 - Interdisciplinary Arts
2. How do you approach your practice as an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker? Select all that apply:
 - I work as a solo artist.
 - I collaborate regularly with other artists.
 - I collaborate regularly with other non-arts practitioners.
 - My practice requires public or community involvement to have meaning.
 - Performing, presenting, or exhibiting to an audience or viewers is core to my practice.
 - Teaching or educating others is core to my practice.
3. In your artistic or cultural practice, do you seek specific impacts or outcomes related to community change? (*"Community," in the context of this question, refers to a geographic population – not an audience or community of affinity.*) [Select one]
 - Yes
 - No

3b. If yes, please describe: *[open field, 50 word limit]*
4. Do you experience any barriers to pursuing educational or professional development opportunities that advance your artistic or cultural practice? [Select one]
 - Yes
 - No

4b. If yes, please describe: *[open field, 50 word limit]*
5. In the last month, how would you describe the amount of **energy** you have to engage in your artistic or cultural practice(s)? Please consider your overall physical, mental, emotional, and creative energy.
 - 1 – no energy
 - 2 – very low energy

- 3 – my energy fluctuates
 - 4 – sufficient energy
 - 5 – more than enough energy
6. In the last month, how would you describe the amount of **time** you have to engage in your artistic or cultural practice(s)?
- 1 – no time at all
 - 2 – very little time
 - 3 – my time fluctuates
 - 4 – sufficient time
 - 5 – more than enough time
7. In the last month, how would you describe your **financial capacity** to afford to engage in your artistic or cultural practice(s)? Please consider necessary materials, training, space, assistance, or other needs related to your artistic or cultural practice(s).
- 1 – I cannot afford these items
 - 2 – I can afford only some of these items
 - 3 – My financial capacity to afford these items fluctuates
 - 4 – I can afford these items
 - 5 – I have more than enough to afford materials

Financial Stability

We seek to understand the financial circumstances of artists in New York State, and any unique precarities held by those who identify as an artist, culture bearer, or culture maker.

8. On a scale of 1-5, how would you describe your own financial stability?

- 1 – extremely unstable
- 2 – unstable
- 3 – my financial stability fluctuates
- 4 – stable
- 5 – extremely stable

8b. Is there anything you'd like to share about what financial stability means to you?

[open field, 50 word limit]

9. Please provide an estimate of your **2021** household income, before taxes: *[Select one]*

- Under \$15,000
- \$15,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- Over \$150,000
- I prefer not to answer.

10. How do you currently earn money? Select all that apply:

- I have one or more part-time jobs (less than 30 hours per week).
- I have a full-time job (more than 30 hours per week).
- I have a series of gigs, contracts, and temporary jobs.
- I am primarily or entirely supported by family or by my spouse/partner.
- I am currently unemployed.
- I earn 100% of my living through my art practice.
- Other (please describe):

10b. How are your wages currently paid? *[Select one]*

- I am an employee who receives an IRS Form W-2.
- I am a freelance/independent contractor who receives an IRS Form 1099.
- Both of the above.
- I don't know
- I prefer not to answer

11. Do you have any other sources of income or financial stability besides income from jobs? Please consider sources such as inheritances, real estate, family support, retirement accounts, stocks, bonds, tangible property, settlements, or lottery proceedings. *[Select one.]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

12. Do you currently have health insurance? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No

13. If an unexpected \$400 emergency came up today, would you be able to pay for it with cash or a cash equivalent, without using credit? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No

14. Are you currently carrying debt? This could include financial obligations not paid in full each month like credit cards, personal loans, payday loans or short-term debt, student loan debt, housing debt, automobile loan, other. *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

14b. If yes, would do you describe it as: *[Select one]*

- Manageable
- Unmanageable

Well-Being

We seek to understand the overall well-being of artists, culture bearers, and culture makers in New York State. We define well-being as “the comprehensive view of how individuals and communities experience and evaluate their lives, including their physical and mental health and having the skills and opportunities to construct meaningful futures.” (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2018)

For the following questions, please indicate your agreement with each of the following statements within the last month on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly **disagree** and 5 is strongly **agree**.

- 1 – Strongly disagree
- 2 – Disagree
- 3 – Neither agree nor disagree / Not sure
- 4 – Agree
- 5 – Strongly agree

- 15. I am in good physical health.
- 16. I am in good mental and emotional health.
- 17. My housing circumstances are stable and meet my needs.
- 18. I am able to feed myself and those I care for.
- 19. My social relationships are supportive and rewarding.
- 20. I lead a purposeful and meaningful life.
- 21. I feel agency over my future.
- 22. I am optimistic about the future.

Policy / Advocacy

We seek to understand the relationship that artists, culture bearers, and culture makers in New York State have to the broader public and to areas of policy that may impact them.

23. Do you feel that the general public values, sees, and/or understands your work? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

23b. Is there anything you'd like to share about your response? *[open field, 50 word limit]*

24. Do you feel confident articulating your creative process and the labor involved? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

25. Do you believe that artists, culture bearers, and culture makers deserve to have a financial safety net? *(A "financial safety net" is a personal financial cushion that can include emergency savings funds, assets, family resources, disability insurance coverage, and life insurance so that one can financially support themselves for 3-6 months without income and/or in the case of an emergency.) [Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

26. Prior to learning about Creatives Rebuild New York, were you aware of guaranteed income or universal basic income policies? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

27. Which coalitions or causes do you actively participate in as a supporter or advocate?

Select all that apply:

- Arts/culture
- Childcare access
- Disability justice
- Economic justice
- Environment/climate justice
- Housing/tenants' rights
- Labor/workers' rights
- Social and racial justice
- Other: please specify
- None at this time

28. Are you an active member of any group (not including a political party) that tries to influence public policy or government? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No

Pandemic Impact

We seek to understand the impacts that the COVID19 pandemic continues to have on the lives of artists, culture bearers, and culture makers in New York State.

29. At any time between March 2020 and February 2022, did you receive any kind of emergency financial assistance? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No

29b. If yes, which of the following types of emergency financial assistance did you receive? Select all that apply:

- Federal relief legislation (ie., American Rescue Plan, Paycheck Protection Program, Employee Retention Credit, State Small Business Credit, etc.)
- Unemployment benefits
- An emergency grant
- Mutual aid or other grassroots contributions
- Family/personal assistance
- Other (please describe): *[open field, 50 word limit]*

30. How, if at all, was your **employment** impacted between March 2020 and February 2022? Select all that apply:

- I was furloughed or my hours were reduced.
- I was laid off or fired from a job.
- I left a job or reduced hours to attend to family caregiving.
- My freelance work, gigs, and/or work contracts were canceled.
- My entire industry was shut down.
- I started a new full-time or part-time job.
- I picked up new freelance work, gigs, and/or work contracts.
- Other (please describe): *[open field, 50 word limit]*
- My employment was not impacted by the pandemic.

31. How, if at all, was your **artistic practice** impacted between March 2020 and February 2022? Select all that apply:

- My scheduled exhibitions/shows/performances/gigs were canceled.
- Canceled travel prevented me from attending my exhibitions/shows/performances/gigs.
- My studio/rehearsal space closed due to the pandemic.
- I could no longer afford a studio/rehearsal space.
- I could no longer collaborate safely with others.
- I was less motivated to pursue my artistic practice.
- I was more motivated to pursue my artistic practice.
- I sought out new collaborators, communities, or professional networks.
- I evolved my artistic practice to address community needs.
- I embraced new opportunities to present my work online.
- I created a new series of work.
- I picked up new exhibitions/shows/performances/gigs.
- Other (please describe): *[open field, 50 word limit]*
- My artistic practice was not impacted by the pandemic.

32. How, if at all, was your **well-being** impacted between March 2020 and February 2022? Select all that apply:

- I experienced anxiety or depression.
- I experienced loneliness.
- I got sick.
- I experienced food insecurity.
- I experienced housing insecurity.
- I had to move.
- I accumulated debt.
- I became a part- or full-time caregiver.
- My self-care improved.
- My mental health improved.
- My physical health improved.
- Other (please describe): *[open field, 50 word limit]*
- My well-being was not impacted by the pandemic.

Geographic Information

CRNY is committed to serving all of New York State, and seeks to understand differences across the state's diverse geographic contexts.

33. Zip Code *[Must be 5-digit format.]*

34. County *[Select one]*

- List all 62 counties in NYS

35. Region *[Select one]*

- Capital Region
- Central New York
- Finger Lakes
- Long Island
- Mid-Hudson
- Mohawk Valley
- New York City
- North Country
- Southern Tier
- Western New York

36. How would you describe the community in which you live? *[Select one]*

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Tribal

Demographic Information

We acknowledge the sensitive nature of demographic data and how it has been used historically to harm communities of color and other oppressed populations. For each of the following questions, you may provide the requested information or you may indicate that you choose not to provide a response to that particular item. Your participation and responses will be treated as strictly confidential.

37. Please enter your Date of Birth. *[Must be in MM/DD/YYYY format.]*

38. Which of the following best describes you? Select all that apply:

- Arab or Middle Eastern
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Indigenous American, First Nation, or Alaska Native
- Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
- White
- Other: please specify
- I prefer not to answer

39. Do you identify as an immigrant to the U.S.? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

40. What is your primary spoken language? *[Select one]*

- English
- Spanish
- Mandarin or Cantonese
- Russian
- Yiddish
- Bengali
- Korean
- Haitian Creole
- Italian
- Arabic
- Polish
- Other: Please specify
- I prefer not to answer

41. What is your gender identity? Select all that apply:

- Man
- Woman
- Non-Binary
- Two-Spirit
- Other: please specify
- I prefer not to answer

42. Do you identify as transgender? *[Select one]*

- Yes

- No
- I prefer not to answer

43. Do you identify as LGBTQIAP+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, pansexual)? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

44. Do you identify as Deaf or disabled? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

45. Do you have any past criminal legal system involvement? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

45b. If yes: has your past criminal legal system involvement impacted your ability to find

employment? *[Select one]*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to answer

46. Do you regularly provide care – either on your own or with someone else – to any of the following people? Select all that apply:

- Yes, a child or children
- Yes, a spouse or partner who is elderly, ill, or disabled
- Yes, an adult/adults who is/are elderly, ill, or disabled
- No
- I prefer not to answer

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in this survey. The information you have provided will help contribute to a complex and nuanced understanding of how New York State artists live today. Your time is a valued resource, and we appreciate you spending it with this survey.

- Would you like to receive the results of this survey or be kept apprised of CRNY's future advocacy and narrative change work?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you want to be entered into the New York State Artist Survey Giveaway (a drawing to receive an iPad Pro 12.9", Bose Noise Cancelling Headphones, or a one-year membership to a museum or cultural institution of your choice)? *[Select one]*
 - Yes
 - No

If you answered yes to either of the above, please enter your email address here. This email address will not be associated with any of your other survey responses. As a reminder, your participation and responses will be treated as strictly confidential.

- Email address: *[open field, email address only]*