

**State Budget 23-24 Information – Support of the New York State Summer School of the Arts**

**NYS FY 2024 Executive Budget: State Operations Appropriations Bill, Page 108, $1,481,000**

**The Ask:**

1. ***Are you willing to support this line item in the Governor’s Proposed Budget?***
2. ***Are you willing to support maintaining its inclusion in the finalized version of the Budget?***

**Budget Background:**

* *The NYS Summer School of the Arts was first funded by the State Legislature in 1976 as a site-based, intensive pre-professional training and career development program.*
* *Significant reduction in budgeted funding occurred in 2021 in response to COVID as the program was re-imagined as a regionally-based arts enrichment opportunity.*
* *The currently proposed Governor’s budget increases funding for the regionally-based arts enrichment programs AND provides funding to redevelop the site-based program to take place once more in Summer 2025.*
* *We would appreciate support to this support funding in the finalized budget.*

**Program Background:**

* *Founded in 1976, the NYS Summer School of the Arts provided a multi-week intensive training in Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts at creative hubs in Saratoga Springs and Fredonia.*
* *Admission was through a highly competitive application and audition process to identify tomorrow’s leaders in the arts.*
* *Scholarships and financial aid made the program available to students from every area of the state, representing the full spectrum of New York’s cultural, economic and racial diversity.*
* *With the arrival of the COVID-19 epidemic in 2020, that summer’s program was cancelled.*
* *Going forward from 2021, greatly reduced funding and public health concerns saw the program pivot to a regionally-based enrichment activities provided by local arts institution providers. This served as a tool for stimulating local economies as well as serving a highly diverse pool of student participants.*
* *As the state recovers both fiscally and medically, the Governor’s proposed budget envisions the continued support of the regionally-based enrichment activities as well as the reinstatement of the site-based pre-professional programs.*

**Benefits:**

* *Graduates from NYSSSA are in the forefront of their professions including the arts.*
* *It is virtually impossible to see an arts presentation without seeing a NYSSSA grad. Many students say it is the hardest thing they have ever done and the most important experience in their life, even many years later.*
* *NYSSSA serves as a laboratory for best practices and innovative teaching strategies for high-achieving as well as at-risk students.*
* *The schools are models of excellence, functioning at the highest levels of academic achievement regardless of economic, cultural, demographic and racial backgrounds.*
* *NYSSSA has always been a partner with the most renowned artists and artistic companies in the world.*
* *NYSSSA identifies and trains the next generation of New York’s great artists and leaders who contribute to what is a significant portion of the state’s gross domestic product.*
* *This program is a New York State treasure and should be provided with full funding.*

***Created By NYS Alliance For Arts Education***

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