

**Arts, Culture, and Tourism Application : Entry #
1949****General Information****Date of application**

06/30/2023

Name of Entity

Electronic Body Arts, Inc. AKA eba

Entity TIN, EIN or Social Security Number

23-7401865

Entity physical address

11 Ten Eyck Ave
Albany, NY 12209
United States

[Map It](#)**Is the physical address different from the mailing address?**

Yes

What is the mailing address?

PO Box 145
Albany, New York 12201
United States

[Map It](#)**Website (if available)**<http://www.eba-arts.org>**Primary Contact Information****Primary contact name**

Maude Baum

Primary contact title

Artistic Executive Director

Primary contact phone

(518) 763-7536

Primary contact email

ebadance@gmail.com

What is the primary contacts preferred method of contact?

Email

Entity Info and Structure**Which structure best describes the entity?**

Non-profit organization

What is the date of establishment?

1973

If applicable, is the entity a W/MAM (Minority or Women-Owned Business Entity)?

No

Have you or the entity ever received any form of COVID-19 relief funds or loans specific to the negative impacts of the Pandemic?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please specify the type(s) and amount(s).

\$9980 Payroll Protection Plan
\$2500. NYC Dance COVID Rcovery

General Project Information**Describe the arts/cultural/tourism activities your organization provides in Albany County.**

eba (electronic body arts, Inc.)

Celebrating 50 years of creating, performing and teaching in Albany County and beyond, eba has many "onlys" to make Albany proud:

- eba is the only Dance Theatre Company to be named Albany County Tricentennial Dance Company.
- Albany County fully supported eba's REMINISCENCE Healthy Living Thru Dance Program for seniors.
- eba is the only New York State touring company to receive the "I Love NY" Ambassadors of Goodwill Title to represent New York State -byGovernor Mario Cuomo.
- eba is the only Albany based dance theatre company to be deemed the City's "Premiere Dance Theatre" by three Albany Mayors - Mayor Corning, Mayor Whalen and Mayor Jennings.
- eba is the only Performing Arts Company in Albany County to have Arts-in-Education in its original 1972 mission statement. eba has performed and taught in almost every school district in Albany County.

eba was founded in 1973, in Albany County, New York, as a not-for-profit cultural and educational organization recognized by the NYS Board of Regents.

eba's mission is to cultivate and develop an understanding of and public interest in the performing, visual and technological arts; through creation, performance, education and touring. Of equal importance, we endeavor to cultivate the inherent creative potential within each of us and help integrate these creative aims with daily life.

eba is committed to serving Albany County by creating and presenting high quality artistic and education programming. eba fulfills this mission with innovative dance theatre and multimedia events, creative education for adults and children, and arts-in-education programs.

eba programs have paved the way for newer organizations to present their artistic work and teach their technique. When eba purchased the theater, it was the only option for smaller regional companies to perform, present and share their art. eba presented other companies for many years. eba presented both L'Ensemble and Capital Rep in their first performances in Albany. As the talent base grew so did the performing venues and dance studios. Today there are several performances venues for smaller companies and over 15 dance studios. There were 2 of each when eba open the theater in 1977.

eba Creative Art Adventures: This is a small "laundry list" of eba's community programs over the past 50 years.

- Created over 500 Arts in Education Residency Programs for teaching regular curriculum through creative arts.
- Created 11 full length Dance Theatre performances for students delving into important topics such as drugs, suicide, divorce, peer pressure, how the body functions, germs, fire safety, American dance, So this is dance, and Life of firefighters.
- Toured to 27 elementary schools in 26 days with a Child's Christmas (a dance theatre performance highlighting the danger of fire and indoor trees.) fully funded with a McDonalds Grant.
- Taught an average of 660 classes a year for everybody 3 – 80.
- Performed two performance weekends annually– 6 performances each year for 30 years.
- Toured for three months giving 76 performances in Turkey, Spain, Italy and Greece- fully funded by the DOD.
- Received one of the inaugural 7 Empire State Grants for Arts-in-Education. Subsequently received this grant for 8 years until NYSCA changed its AIE guidelines.
- Developed computer and technology programs for lighting, music, video, and dance that you can now purchase now as an APP.
- eba Board of Directors spend several long hours researching and modifying bylaws to comply with the new NYS laws governing Not-for-Profits, including due diligence searches for comparable executive compensation.
- Worked with over 200 teachers to bring creativity into their classroom. Funded by local, state, and municipal grants, school districts and international schools.
- Created over 120 new works for annual Brave New Dances Concerts.
- Developed and implemented Life Circle – a learning and performance ensemble of people - old, young, abled and disabled. The 20+ member group worked for 6 years, with workshops every other week and at least 2 performances each year, until COVID. Funded by foundations, state, municipal and private grants. COVID put a halt to Life Circle.
- Secured 14 CDBG grants to continue the restoration of the eba Theater from 1990 – 2014.
- Designed and implemented a two year cultural exchange with a Dance Company and School in St. Petersburg and Tula, Russia. eba performed the Dances of Isadora Duncan as well as works of other American Choreographers in both St. Petersburg and Tula. eba was the first American Company to perform the Dances of Duncan in 70 years, as Duncan's Dances had been banned in Russia. Russian students, teachers and artists came to the Capital Region and performed and taught in schools, colleges and centers for 3 weeks each year.
- eba and guest artists created and implemented the Family Performance Stage and the Creative Zone for Larkfest and Art on Lark. 5 performing companies and 20 artists shared their creativity with over 50,000 people each year.
- eba gave over 700 artists and teachers the opportunity to develop and hone their artistic capacity while working with the company.
- eba shared the eba Theater with many community organizations, including The Pride Frost Bite Ball for LGBT teens, meetings of neighborhood groups, special events for other not for profits, workshops by touring companies, rehearsal space

for individual artists, and the like.

- eba members were instrumental in developing and securing the first BID to Albany. The BID was awarded a Main Street grant to help revitalize the Lark Street BID area.
- eba created and implemented annual unique cabaret fund raisers that not only brought in crucial funds, but also brought eba awareness to the larger community. TV and radio stations as well as online magazines and reporting entities highlighted the unusual and zany aspect of our galas. The themes ranged from a Speakeasy, Carnavale Rio, All That Jazz, to Splendor in Stone. We accomplished these outrageous feats of perseverance with hundreds of hours of in-kind work led by the Board President and many, many volunteers from the Board, Community, UAlbany and the Leadership Academy. BOCES Culinary Program and generous caterers contributed hors d'oeuvres based on the gala's theme.

Programs

With a diverse demographic, the entire region benefits from these ongoing eba programs:

- Dance classes for adults wanting to enjoy dancing as part of their life
- Innovative programs for seniors and special needs adults
- Creative dance for children based on developing their own voice in movement and dance
- Multigenerational performance workshops and performances
- Afterschool sequential dance education for inner city children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to study dance
- Professional performances by renowned artists in residence and Maude Baum and Company Dance Theatre
- Commissioned projects to bring choreographers, electronic artists and musicians together to create and perform
- In-school residencies teaching regular curriculum through creative experiences
- Dance and Drama for special needs college experience students
- Workshops for people with chronically illnesses to enjoy the freedom of moving in programs designed to optimize their abilities

This level of commitment to all aspects of the creative process in Dance Theatre makes eba unique in our region and on a par with small creative companies throughout the world.

eba programs make a positive impact on the lives of people in our community. A story and quote that express how and why.

This story is about our Intergenerational Able and Disabled Performance Ensemble, The Life Circle Ensemble. A youngster about 9 came to the workshops with an "adult volunteer", similar to Big Sisters. Initially, she did not speak except to her volunteer. When asked to participate she just clung to her and seemed frozen. As the weeks progressed, things changed. She wore a special dress to the workshops. She brought in a picture that she drew and colored of the group, and she was in the picture. She began participating and actually hugged each member before leaving each evening. Her volunteer said that she asked her every day if today is Wednesday – workshop day.

She asked to play Cinderella in the fairy tale that was part of the performance. She came back each week with more ideas for her role and memorized her lines, although she could barely read. She was so excited. Then one week she did not attend. She and her siblings had been put in foster care. The foster parent did not feel that she could allow her to attend without SS allowing it. So, she did not get to play the part of Cinderella in the performance. Although this story does not end as we were anticipating, we are convinced that her personal voyage and success during her time at eba will help her to get through this difficult time. Again, we can only hope that she will remember what success feels like and use her creativity to help her become the person she wants to be. Community support gave this youngster the opportunity to be part of a caring, creative group.

The 20 other people in The Life Circle Ensemble performed beautifully. One of our down syndrome college kids played Cinderella and did a magnificent job in a very short time. When I asked her if she planned to continue, she said that as a college student she has very limited time and that she felt confident enough now to try something new. Since The Life Circle Ensemble was her first experience outside of the controlled environment of her program, we think this is remarkable. She is

using this experience to buoy her earned self-confidence and tackle new things to enrich her life

A previous artist and teacher with eba express the importance of eba and the indelible mark the company has on the community.

eba is a crucial part of the NYS Capital Region and contributes immensely to the quality of life of this community.

eba's Arts In Education programs have set the standard in the field for decades, inspiring hundreds of thousands of children, teachers and families to care, create, and build community together.

Maude Baum and Company Dance Theatre is a treasure chest of American Dance Theatre, a collection of works spanning over a century. These dances, many choreographed by the barrier shattering Artistic Director Maude Baum, provoke, agitate, amuse, inspire and encourage audiences to question, connect and often to deepen their world view.

The eba Theater is a hub of artistic activity, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for almost 50 years. Artists and community members, seniors and children meet, learn, perform, teach, laugh, imagine and dream in a safe, dynamic and stunningly beautiful space.

Finally, under the powerful leadership of Maude Baum, eba has been on the forefront of social change since 1972. A fierce advocate for the LGBTQ community, eba encouraged and supported these artists long before they had a voice elsewhere.

Ms. Baum's commitment to including people with disabilities resulted in a fully accessible arts center, a myriad of creatively designed classes and workshops and a performance group where artists of all abilities are valued and all voices are heard.

eba also has a long tradition of hiring immigrants in all capacities, and of encouraging new American families to make art a key part of their new lives.

eba has tenaciously held to its mission statement while fearlessly growing and pushing its own boundaries to create, build, dream and inspire generations.

Please contact me directly, so I can tell you more about the magic and importance of eba.

-Vanessa Paige

Measurement of the success of eba programs

Quantitative measurement is shown above with the sheer numbers of individuals, groups, communities, teachers, students, parents and the like who were transformed by their involvement with eba.

Qualitative measurements are more difficult. How do you measure "improvement" in capacity to see hear and feel beauty, or a deeper understanding of oneself through participation in an eba program, or why so many tears were shed while experiencing an emotionally intense dance work that touches the soul, or the pure joy in a 3 year old while performing a dance that he created, or the joy on the face of his parents? eba has tried for many years. As have NYSCA, the State Education Department, the NEA and countless research organizations. We tell the stories and share anecdotal input as the best measurements.

If an award is made, describe how Albany County will benefit. Where possible, please quantify impact.

If an award is made for the eba Legacy Project, Albany County will benefit in several ways, experiencing a tangible impact on its cultural landscape and community engagement.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: The eba Legacy Project aims to preserve over 50 years of eba's artistic contributions and historical records. The eba Legacy Archive and Exhibition Models can share the artistic contributions of small performing arts companies. By safeguarding this cultural heritage, Albany County will have a comprehensive archive of its performing arts scene. This ensures that the artistic legacy of the county is documented and accessible for future generations.

Community Engagement: The eba Legacy Exhibitions will provide an interactive and immersive experience for visitors. By showcasing the interconnectedness of performing arts organizations and Albany, the exhibition will foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents. It will strengthen the community's connection to the arts and promote engagement with local artists and small arts organizations.

Educational Opportunities: The eba Legacy Project includes an arts-in-education component. This space will serve as an educational resource for students, teachers, and researchers, offering insights into the creative process, historical context, and impact of performing arts. By providing these resources, Albany County will enhance arts education and foster a deeper understanding of the importance of art in society.

Economic Impact: The eba Legacy Project has the potential to attract visitors from within and outside Albany County. The exhibitions, can be used for tourism marketing, helping develop more cultural tourism, boosting the local economy.

Cultural Identity and Branding: The eba Legacy Project will reinforce Albany County's identity as a thriving hub of artistic and cultural expression. It will support the county's reputation as a place that values and celebrates the arts. This branding can have long-term effects, attracting artists, creative industries, and cultural events to the area, further bolstering Albany County's cultural ecosystem.

These endeavors are needed now more than ever. There is no substitute for taking class with a teacher in the room to give you personalized instruction. A live performance allows the energy of audience and artist to connect. This makes the magic! Unfortunately, too many small companies are unable to continue from lack of support and opportunity. Once they are gone, they no longer exist; save only in the minds of people who experienced them live. Archives and exhibitions will allow them to live on and will also be available for tourism promotion, bolstering Albany County's reputation as an arts mecca. This is important both for tourists and for artists looking for a place to live and work. Albany can become their place to call home.

If an award is made, describe how the funds will help you to sustain your operations in Albany County.

If an award is made to eba, the funds will play a crucial role in sustaining our operations in Albany County. Some back history is needed to share just how the funds will help sustain eba.

Although the sale of the eba theater building happened in March 2017, the Asst. Attorney General did not close the case until March 2018. So the closing of the building sale stalled for a full year. As we had to vacate the premises upon closing, we could not schedule activities in the theater for that entire year. We spent the time culling saved materials, boxing, categorizing the boxes and donating/selling hundreds of items that we could not take with us. Income came from rent from the commercial shop, admissions for our concert at Siena and summer camp.

The sale of our building also left us without a physical "homebase". Thankfully, community organizations generously extended their support by offering their facilities for eba programs. We proceeded as planned, reorganizing how and where we shared our ongoing programs and creating new initiatives for the community. We intended to use the \$100,000 proceeds from the sale of the building to move us forward with programming in: arts-in-education, dance and special needs classes, Life Circle Performance Ensemble, the creation of new works, performances and importantly, the new Legacy Project.

Regrettably, the COVID-19 pandemic then shuttered all of our programs. On the very day that we were to begin rehearsals for our Spring Concerts at Siena College in March, 2020, everything shut down. We thought we would reschedule for later in the spring. However, just as with other performing arts companies, we endured two years of no classes, no rehearsals, no in school arts-in-education, and no in-person performances. This meant no income. Our only avenue was to use the proceeds from the sale of the building to stay alive.

As you can see from the attached 990s, we experienced a profit of \$5,400 in 2017/18, because our director deferred her salary. Unfortunately, it was later forfeited by the Asst AG's decisions. Although we tried to recover from this, we experienced a deficit of \$54,842 in 2018/19 and a deficit of \$ 21,357 in 2019/20. We used the reserve to cover the deficits. Then in the midst of 2020, came the pandemic. We pressed on with the reserve now at \$69,000. The 2020-21 income was \$52,000. The deficit was \$32,072. During the first year of COVID, we lost \$32,000. To put this in some perspective, our 2014 income was \$94,000 without a deficit.

We adapted to the circumstances, redesigning our in-person service methods to accommodate remote art adventures, performances, classes and activities. These included online classes twice a day, 3 days a week, Creative Art Adventures at Home with drawing, music and dance, A Performance Documentary using interviews with past and present performers describing what the learning and rehearsal process meant to them and their performance, online meetings of the Board of Directors, project research and development with online meetings of the eba Legacy Team, and the creation a small digital exhibition of the archives. Recruiting volunteers to assist with the required in-person inventory of the archives in the small storage unit was completely halted. It remains a challenge, even at present.

Nevertheless, drawing from the success of numerous strategic and five-year plans developed and carried out by the eba Board of Directors over the years, we are confident that the organization will thrive as we work into the future. Throughout eba's journey, our plans have always remained steadfast in fulfilling our original mission, while effectively weathering challenging situations and overcoming daunting economic fluctuations.

At present, eba funds are used to all operational expenses and the eba Legacy Project. Awarded funds would remove the eba Legacy from this equation. We would have more funds to hire artists, to continue our performances, arts adventures, classes, marketing and the like, thus helping to sustain our everyday operations in Albany County.

Describe the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic increased or decreased demand for your services. As an option, you may attach to this application any optional information that supports you're the service increase or decrease being described below.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the demand for our services at eba. As an organization that thrives on in-person performances, education, and community engagement, the restrictions and challenges brought about by the pandemic had a profound effect on our operations.

Decreased Demand for In-Person Performances: Due to gathering restrictions and safety concerns, we were unable to hold live performances as we had in the past. This led to a decrease in demand for our in-person concerts, as audiences were unable to attend and experience the magic of live performance.

Shift to Online Platforms: In response to the limitations imposed by the pandemic, we adapted by transitioning our services to online platforms. We offered virtual performances, classes, and workshops to engage with our audience remotely. While this helped to mitigate the decrease in demand to some extent, it did not replicate the experience of in-person interactions.

Challenges in Arts Education: The closure of schools and the shift to remote learning presented significant challenges for our arts education programs. Demand for our in-person arts education offerings ended as teachers struggled to adapt to the new learning environment. We made efforts to provide virtual educational resources, but there was little demand.

Impacted Community Engagement: Our ability to engage with the community and collaborate with other organizations was severely hampered by the pandemic. Social distancing guidelines and the cancellation of public events limited our performance and collaborative opportunities, leading to a decreased demand for our services.

Throughout the pandemic, we have taken proactive measures to continue serving our community to the best of our abilities.

However, it is important to note that the impact of the pandemic on our operations cannot be understated.

Please select the grant opportunity you wish to apply to

I wish to be considered for both (see below note)

Project Information – Recovery Grant

What amount of funding is being requested?

\$32,000.00

Provide the total amount of lost revenue/additional expenses attributable to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

\$32,000. eba lost this amount in 2021 due to the pandemic. We stayed alive by using the reserve from the sale of the building.

Sustainable Operating Model: Describe how your organization adapted its operations to respond to (a) the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and (b) any long-term trends brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, eba adapted its operations to respond to both the immediate impacts and the long-term trends brought about by the crisis. Here's how we adjusted our operations:

(a) Immediate Impacts:

We adapted to the circumstances, redesigning our in-person service methods to accommodate remote art adventures, performances, classes and activities. These included online classes twice a day, 3 days a week; Creative Art Adventures at Home with drawing, music and dance; A Performance Documentary using interviews with past and present performers describing what the learning and rehearsal process meant to them and their performance; online meetings of the Board of Directors; project research and development with online meetings of the eba Legacy Team; and the creation of a small digital exhibition of the archives. Unfortunately, recruiting volunteers to assist with the required in-person inventory of the archives in the small storage unit was completely halted. It remains a challenge, even at present.

Safety Protocols and Remote Work: We implemented stringent safety protocols to protect our staff and artists involved in the production of virtual content. Remote work arrangements were facilitated whenever possible, ensuring the health and well-being of our team members while continuing our work.

Postponing: In cases where virtual options were not viable, we postponed, and postponed and postponed in-person performances to a later date when it would be safe to gather again. This approach helped to provide something for our audience to look forward to once the situation improved.

(b) Long-Term Trends:

- 1. Hybrid Model:** Understanding the lasting impact of the pandemic, we embraced a hybrid model that combines both in-person and virtual offerings. This flexible approach caters to a wider audience, accommodating those who now prefer remote experiences or face limitations in attending in-person events. It also enables us to extend our reach beyond the local community, expanding our impact regionally, county wide, even globally. We have partners in Florida, California, even New Zealand.
- 2. Enhanced Online Presence:** The pandemic underscored the significance of having an online presence. We are slowly investing in upgrading our website, creating an online platform for performances, exhibitions, and educational resources. This expanded online presence continues to be a valuable tool for engaging with our audience, reaching new demographics, and promoting our services.
- 3. Flexibility and Agility:** The pandemic highlighted the importance of adaptability and agility. We have embraced the more flexible approach to our operations, allowing us to swiftly respond to changing circumstances and evolving demands. This flexibility empowers us to navigate future uncertainties and maintain a resilient organizational structure. The recession of 1980

taught us how to creatively use very limited funds from every sector to keep our company alive. We have not forgotten and are using those lessons.

Our transition to virtual offerings, implementation of safety protocols, postponement of live events, adoption of a hybrid model, and emphasis on online presence have positioned us to thrive in the changing landscape of the Albany Performing Arts. By ensuring the safety of our stakeholders, embracing hybrid models, and being adaptable, eba has effectively responded to the immediate and long-term challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These adjustments have allowed us to continue fulfilling our mission and providing enriching artistic experiences to our community, both during the crisis and in the post-pandemic era.

Here is the back story on eba's situation.

Although the sale of the theater building happened in March, 2017, the asst. attorney general did not close the case until March, 2018. So the closing of the building sale stalled for a full year. As we had to vacate the premises upon closing, we could not schedule activities in the theater for that entire year. We spent the time culling saved materials, boxing, categorizing the boxes and donating/selling hundreds of items that we could not take with us. Income came from rent from the commercial shop, admissions for our concert at Siena and summer camp.

The sale of our building also left us without a physical "homebase". Thankfully, community organizations generously extended their support by offering their facilities for eba programs. We proceeded as planned, reorganizing how and where we shared our ongoing programs and creating new initiatives for the community. We intended to use the \$100,000 proceeds from the sale of the building to move us forward with programming in: arts-in-education, dance and special needs classes, Life Circle Performance Ensemble, the creation of new works, performances and importantly, the new Legacy Project.

Regrettably, the COVID-19 pandemic then shuttered all of our programs. On the very day that we were to begin rehearsals for our Spring Concerts at Siena College in March, 2020, everything shut down. We thought we would reschedule for later in the spring. However, just as with other performing arts companies, we endured two years of no classes, no rehearsals, no in school arts-in-education, and no in-person performances. This meant no income. Our only avenue was to use the proceeds from the sale of the building to stay alive.

As you can see from the attached 990s, we experienced a profit of \$5,400 in 2017/18, because our director deferred her salary. Unfortunately, it was later forfeited by the Asst AG's decisions. Although we tried to recover from this, we experienced a deficit of \$54,842 in 2018/19 and a deficit of \$ 21,357 in 2019/20. We used the reserve to cover the deficits. Then in the midst of 2020, came the pandemic. We pressed on with the reserve now at \$69,000. The 2020-21 income was \$52,000. The deficit was \$32,072. During the first year of COVID, we lost \$32,000. To put this in some perspective, our 2014 income was \$94,000 without a deficit.

Nevertheless, drawing from the success of numerous strategic and five-year plans developed and carried out by the eba Board of Directors over the years, we are confident that the organization will thrive as we work into the future. Throughout eba's journey, our plans have always remained steadfast in fulfilling our original mission, while effectively weathering challenging situations and overcoming daunting economic fluctuations.

Describe how requested funds will help the entity recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are determined to complete the eba Legacy Archives and Exhibition, as well as the easy to use model for other small performing companies. We also must return to creating and performing. We are concentrating on community projects using both avocational and professional performers. We have applied for a NYSCouncil on the Arts grant to present a concert later this year. Our classes for seniors morphed and continued online throughout all of this. Since we are now both online and in-

person, we want to add students and secure sponsorships for students who cannot afford tuition.

These endeavors are needed now more than ever. There is no substitute for taking class with a teacher in the room to give you personalized instruction. A live performance allows the energy of audience and artist to connect. This makes the magic! Unfortunately, too many small companies are unable to continue from lack of support and opportunity. Once they are gone, they no longer exist; save only in the minds of people who experienced them live. Our Archives and Exhibitions Models will allow them to also recover from COVID and live on. The completed models will also be available for tourism promotion, bolstering Albany County's reputation as an arts mecca. This is important both for tourists and for artists looking for a place to live and work.

The requested funds will allow us to use the remainder of the building sale reserve for necessary operating expenses for performances, classes, creative adventures and general operations. Presently, these funds are being used for operating expenses and the eba Legacy Project.

Does the entity possess a financial management system that provides records that can identify the sources and application of ARPA funds if an award is made? Please explain below:

Yes

If "Yes" above, please provide details about the type of financial system that is utilized by the entity

We have used Quickbooks. We now use Quickbooks online. A virtual assistant manages our Quickbooks Account. We use PayPal for donations from our website.

Project Information – Promotion Grants

Please select whether the proposed project is new or existing

Expands an existing initiative or project

Please provide a short summary of your proposed project including a project name, general description, total cost, reason(s) why you are pursuing the project and anticipated impact:

Title: eba Legacy Project- eba Archives and Exhibition, and Models for Small Performing Arts Companies

Cost: \$274,960

Description: We seek funding to embark on a comprehensive project to complete the eba archives and implement an interactive Exhibition telling the Story of eba in Albany. This project is an integral part of the eba Legacy Project, which aims to preserve and showcase the rich history of eba.

The eba Legacy Archives and Exhibition will be designed to exist both online and eventually in a physical space. The online archives and exhibition, housed on the eba website, will feature digital modules representing the entire archive as well as an exhibition. We are using Matterport digital touring (video tours that highlight the tour space) with Meta Tags (links to embedded media and information from the archives). The tour space is the eba Chapter House Theater where 40 years of eba creations were made and shared. The space was generously donated to shoot the Matterport Video by the present owners- Lark Hall. In the Matterport Tour, visitors can easily navigate and explore areas of interest, including videos, programs, photos, costumes, scores, interviews, artists, reviews, historical accounts, and much more. An arts-in-education and an interactive creative adventure space will also be incorporated. The physical exhibition will be modular, comprising panels for photos, reviews, and other elements, as well as areas to display artifacts and the interactive creative adventure. The scale of the physical exhibition will vary depending on the available space. We will tackle the physical archives when the digital exhibition is completed.

Our vision for the eba Legacy Project goes beyond preserving our own history. Inspired by our archival project, we plan to develop an archival model specifically tailored for small performing arts companies. Unlike traditional museum archives, this

model is simple, easy to manage, and accessible to organizations that most likely lack the time, expertise, funds, and staff to create a comprehensive archive, let alone an exhibition. We will use the eba archive as the laboratory for designing the model. This archive will provide a platform to share their stories through the simple exhibition model that celebrates their impact on their Albany Communities. We will offer the models to artists at no cost with a "how to" information manual and user-friendly "drag and drop" templates. Also, for many artists and companies, when they stop performing, all is lost to their community and to their art form, save in the minds of people who have experienced their performance – live. By adopting these models, small companies can ensure that their important work remains part of their community, county, and region's historical records, preserving their impact and serving as a constant reminder of the significance of supporting art and artists - now. Even with limited resources, an inexperienced staff person can easily develop a functional archive and design an exhibition using the provided templates. This allows companies to save their work, showcase their importance to the community, and gives them a ready-to-use and excellent marketing tool. Each exhibition can of course be used by Albany County as part of our overall tourism marketing, exciting potential tourist about the arts scene in the County and Region. As for the eba part of the project, the eba archives, in conjunction with other archival materials from newspapers, magazines, official documents, photographs, films, and community arts organizations, will provide a wealth of resources to construct a compelling cultural history. Our aim is to demonstrate how eba's innovative dance, electronics and arts programs fostered connections among diverse individuals and inspired creativity in the Albany County and beyond. The completion of the archives in 2024 and the interactive exhibition, scheduled for 2026, will serve as a testament to the intrinsic value of this extraordinary arts organization. Since the early 1970s, eba has been at the forefront of utilizing multimedia arts as a means of education, community-building, and self-realization and expression. eba's artistic endeavors intersected with groundbreaking developments in video production, electronic music, visual arts, dance/movement theatre, and arts-in-education. From its inception, eba fostered collaborations between artists and diverse communities, resulting in a story that resonates with audiences everywhere. The exhibition will honor eba's legacy and its place in Albany County. The planning stage for the exhibition that took place between 2019 -2022, encompassed research, including choosing programs and items (x-mind PDF is included) and planning the exhibition; many hours of education about archiving and archival exhibitions; and several drafts. We focused on specific art works, community creative engagement programs, and arts-in-education initiatives undertaken by eba as well as the historical significance of the Chapter House Theater, a venue purchased by eba in 1977. This facility played a vital role in the revitalization of the Lark Street District and will be recognized for its contribution to local culture and community development.

Impact:

We expect that everyone who experiences the exhibition and/or views the archives will understand the intrinsic value of having and keeping creative performing art in their life.

Small Performing Companies will have a vehicle for sharing their work and keeping their name in the public eye. This will increase their recognition and lead to increased work and the capacity to create more art. By adopting these models, small companies can ensure that their important work remains part of their community, city, and region's historical records, preserving their impact and serving as a constant reminder of the significance of supporting art and artists - now. Even with limited resources, inexperienced staff can easily develop a functional archive and design an exhibition using the provided templates. This allows companies to save their work, showcase their importance to the community, and gives them a ready-to-use and excellent marketing tool. Each exhibition can of course be used by Albany County as part of our overall tourism marketing, exciting potential tourist about the arts scene in our County.

Attract New Visitors-

Having more art in Albany County increases the options to enjoy live performing art for tourists and the community. In terms of new visitors, people look for new adventures and places to visit. If these exhibitions are used for tourism marketing, people will realize the wealth of performing art and be enticed to visit and enjoy LIVE Performing Arts in Albany County. Albany County support will ensure the success and long-term impact of the project.

What amount of funding is being requested?

\$89,000.00

Please describe the entity's capabilities to implement the project you propose including organizational structure, staff members involved, a summary of similar initiatives you have undertaken and the date they were completed:

eba has fifty years of experience creating, organizing, managing and executing successful projects.

The structure of the organization

Board of Director

-

Artistic Executive Director

-

Artists and Teachers / Administration / Volunteers

Staff for this project -Artistic Executive Director, Historian, Curator, Masters' Candidate Intern, Virtual Assistant. eba Legacy Project Team Volunteers -Technology and Content Organizer, Writer, Video Producer, Narrator, Initial Draft Designer of Exhibition, and Board Liaison.

Sample of the different kinds of similar initiatives undertaken and their completion date.

Listed in reverse chronological order

2021-2023 Determined which items from the stored inventory to digitize, organize, prepare and script for the mini exhibition. Completed the mini exhibition. Premiered at the 50th Anniversary Celebration on March 11, 2023 (included with additional information).

2018-2021 Moved, stored and organized items by program, year, or type. This resulted in storage containers placed in 3 rows, 20 ft deep by 4 ft high in the storage unit. An example of containers in a row- one row contains 48 containers of costumes. Items are now ready to be archivally inventoried, catalogued and described. August 2021

2016-2018 – Culled then donated, shredded and recycled or trashed thousands of eba items. Everything from hundreds of copies of teacher information packets, old cashed checks, VHS and older videos, 45 years of copies of personnel records, 16 file drawers of student registrations, 80 shelves from the attic, tech room, basement, thousands of costume pieces, and so much more. We placed everything we wanted and needed to save in boxes and bins and labeled each by type ie financial, media, costumes, etc.

Broken props, time ravaged costumes, outdated and now useless tech items etc. were hauled away in 3 huge container trucks.

We successfully cleared the 4 floors and 3 basements of the theater and moved the labeled boxes of items into storage, for safe keeping and archiving.

Hopefully, few will ever have to accomplish this feat.

We were ready for the movers on closing day. March 2018

1981-2015 CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Grants

A sample of the restoration and renovation work in the eba theater completed with CDBG and matching funding.

Replace the roof and gutters - 3 times, rebuild defective water damaged walls, bring all electricity up to code, bring in new flooring, lighting and sound equipment, Paint the exterior and interior, install a new furnace, make the facility handicapped accessible with new bathrooms, a chair lift to the 2nd floor theater and an accessible entrance.

We also received many CDBG and other funding grants for programs for the community. We were successful in applying for the competitive grants, receiving them and successfully executed each grant's requirements to the satisfaction of the city, the feds and the other grantors.

1979-2020 successfully completed all requirements of NYSCA, NEA and several foundation grant, awarded for performances, choreography, music compositions, video experimentation, arts-in-education, commissions, collaborations and dance heritage.

1990-1992 organized, arranged and completed a 3 year cultural exchange program with a Russian Company and School. eba performed and taught in St. Petersburg and Tula and the Russians performed and taught in Albany County and the Capital Region.

1994-1998 organized, arranged and completed Performance and Education Tours to Istanbul Turkey, Cairo Egypt, Rabat Morocco, and Johannesburg So. Africa.

1987 organized, arranged and completed a full month Arts-in-Education performance and teaching tour in NYS North County.

1986 organized and completed a successful three month performance tour to Italy, Spain, Greece and Turkey.

1990 Completed a month long tour of A Child Christmas Performances, totally funded by McDonalds- In Albany, Rensselaer and Bennington Counties.

Please describe, in detail, the impact your proposed project will have on Arts, Culture and/or Tourism in Albany County. Describe how your project will attract new visitors to Albany County. Where possible use metrics/estimates of impact (i.e. increased visitation etc.).

As we have not completed nor shared the archives and exhibition yet, is impossible to determine estimates of value. The project has not been tested or tried so metrics are not available.

Impact-

We expect that everyone who experiences the Exhibitions and/or views the Archives will understand the intrinsic value of having and keeping creative performing art in their life.

Small Performing Companies will have a vehicle for sharing their work and keeping their name in the public eye. This will increase their recognition and lead to increased work and the capacity to create more art. By adopting these models, small companies can ensure that their important work remains part of their community, city, and region's historical records, preserving their impact and serving as a constant reminder of the significance of supporting art and artists - now. Even with limited resources, inexperienced staff can easily develop a functional archive and design an exhibition using the provided templates. This allows companies to save their work, showcase their importance to the community, and gives them a ready-to-use and excellent marketing tool. Each exhibition can of course be used by Albany County as part of our overall tourism marketing, exciting potential tourist about the arts scene in our County.

Attract New Visitors-

More art in Albany County increases the options to enjoy live performing art for tourists and the community. In terms of new visitors, people look for new adventures in places they like to visit. If these exhibitions are used for tourism marketing, people will realize the wealth of performing art and be enticed to visit and enjoy LIVE Performing Arts in Albany County.

How will you track performance goals and define success? Include at least two key performance indicators and expected annual outcomes/impact during the reporting period (September 2023 - December 2026).

Tracking performance goals will be accomplished by performance reports to the Board of Directors by the Artistic Director. We will track these following performance goals: Complete the Archive, Exhibition and Models. The item being tracked, expected outcome and time periods are reported below. Completion of these 3 components will define success.

Complete the inventory, cataloging of the eba archive. Outcomes: September 2023 -2024 -Archive Inventory completed.

Design and develop the Archive and Exhibition Models. Outcomes: September 2023 -2024 - Begin the Models

September 2024-2025 - Complete the Models

September 2025-2026 - Complete the Instruction Manual and

Templates for the Models. Field Test

the Models and make revisions.

Create the digital eba Archive Exhibition. Outcomes: September 2024 -2025- Complete the eba Archival Exhibition

September 2025- 2026- Fine tune the Archives and Exhibition on

the eba website. Share!

2026 and beyond Share, advise and assist companies with

use of the models to create their archive

and exhibition.

What is the proposed project start date?

For this Grant Project, September 2023. The project began in 2018.

What is the anticipated date of completion?

Albany County support for this Grant Project will end in 2026. This project will be ongoing, with new additions to the archives and additional small companies use of the models..

Please provide key performance indicator(s) demonstrating anticipated results

Indicator	2024	2025	2026
Complete the inventory, cataloging of the eba archives.	complete		
Design and develop the Archive and Exhibition Model	begin creating models	complete	complete instruction manual and templates
Create the digital eba Archives Exhibition.	create	complete	fine tune on the website

Please provide key project milestones inclusive of the anticipated timelines and descriptions

Milestone	Anticipated Timeline	Task Description
Complete the eba Archive	2023-2024	Review everything in the archive and finish the archive.
Complete the eba Exhibition	2024-25	Design, create and complete the Exhibition.
Complete the Archive and Exhibition Models	2025-2026	Complete the models, instruction manuals and templates.

If you are funding a multi-year initiative, please provide a breakdown of funding level per year below*:

2023	2024	2025	2026
30,000	30,000	20,000	9,000

Is any upfront funding needed to successfully implement your proposed project?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please specify below.

\$30,000 Funds are needed for the staff, materials and supplies for: archiving, designing the models, and developing the exhibition will be needed.

Describe how the funding will support a sustainable Arts/Culture/Tourism initiative that will continue to serve Albany County residents after ARPA funds have been exhausted .

Once the models for archiving and the exhibition are created, they will be available for artists and performing companies to use for years to come. Using these exhibitions will facilitate more exposure, thereby increasing the visible number of offerings in Albany County. Often times, it appears that Albany is lacking in Performing Arts Offerings. Mostly, this is not the case. The small companies and individual artists do not have the capacity to widely market their work. This leads to the appearance of only a few offering by larger companies.

This investment in the development and completion of the Legacy Project implements a long term solution to a serious problem for small performing artists and companies; small budgets equals- lack of public exposure, inadequate marketing, inability to compete for grants with larger performing arts companies (staffing), and lack of high quality marketing tools.

Once we invest in the technology and design of the models, they will not have to be created or developed again. Thus, this project has tangible and long term results associated with it.

Having archives and exhibitions created by a variety of performing arts companies and artists, including eba, will allow Albany County to easily create digital marketing tools with the high quality exhibition components that will then be readily available. Combining the digital components of smaller and larger companies will show the wealth of offering in the performing arts, thereby demonstrating that Albany County is an arts mecca.

Explain why ARPA Funds Are Needed to Complete the proposed program/project. Would the proposal be Possible Without ARPA Assistance? Describe how your proposal would be impacted if you are awarded a smaller grant than requested?

We could continue along with small grants and funding from supporters. However, it will take many years to complete the project at that rate. This is a large undertaking, yet one that can be completed in 3 years with adequate funding. The eba Legacy Team has been chipping away at the project. They are ready to spend the time required to complete the project. They have the background knowledge of the project, so there will be no time necessary to bring people up to steam.

The project uses digital technology for two of its best uses - documentation and publicity. Without ARPA funding, this project will most likely not be completed. With the 3 years of funding, the project is doable and timely. Timely in that in 3 years our Director will be 80. As time ticks away, so do memories.

With a smaller grant, we will have to determine what parts of the project to put on hold. With the age of our director, completing the eba archive and exhibition will become a priority. This unfortunately, puts the sharable models on hold. Meaning that performers will not have access to a wonderful tool to help them move past COVID, rebuilt their audience base and create more art. It also means that Albany County will not have these exciting exhibitions available for tourism marketing.

Risk Assessment

Has the entity adopted and/or implemented policies relating to: records retention, conflict of interest, code of ethics, and/or nondiscrimination policies?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please specify which policies have been adopted

With Assistance from NYCON, eba Board of Directors amended our bylaws to adhere to the NYS requirements. We included a conflict of interest, code of ethics, and nondiscrimination policy in the bylaws. We have a records retention policy determined by our attorney.

Is the entity properly insured?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please specify which types of insurance(s) are held and the limit(s).

General and Property Liability \$3,000,000. Directors and Officers \$1,000,000. Workers Compensation and Disability as mandated by NYS

Does the entity have a financial management system?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please provide details about the financial management system.

We use Quickbooks. Our Virtual Assistant administers our Quickbooks Account. We use PayPal for donations from our website.

Has there been any change in the entity’s key staffing positions in the last 2 years?

No

Has the entity previously done work for the Federal government (i.e. Is the entity experienced in managing Federal funds)?

Yes

If "Yes" above, please provide details on the Federal funds managed

Several CDBG grants from Albany City and NEA grants.

The County is careful about identifying and avoiding conflicts of interest, especially with grants awarded through the County. A conflict of interest arises when a person’s self-interest and professional interest or public interest intersect. In this situation, there is the potential for biased professional judgment and lack of objectivity which creates a serious conflict when one of the interests can benefit financially or personally from actions or decisions made in the official capacity. A conflict of interest exists whether or not decisions are affected by a personal interest; there only needs to be the possibility of bias for a conflict. If your organization knows of a possible conflict of interest with your application for funds please disclose that information here. Otherwise write “None.”

None

Certifications

US Treasury Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgment 1

- I Have Been Provided a Copy and Understand the U.S. Treasury’s Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (see link or PDF included at the top of page)

US Treasury Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgment 2

- Should the County Allocate ARPA Funds, I am Able to and Pledge to Adhere to ALL Compliance and Reporting Requirements of the U.S. Treasury as it relates to any State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

US Treasury Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgment 3

- I Understand the County Will Contact me if/when Additional Information is Needed and that Information will be Promptly Provided to the County to Support Reporting Requirements

US Treasury Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgment 4

- If for Any Reason I am Unable to Comply with the U.S. Treasury’s Compliance and Reporting Requirements I will Immediately Notify the County in writing by email or letter

US Treasury Reporting & Compliance Acknowledgment 5

- All Information Submitted in this Application is True & Accurate

Electronic Signature Agreement

- I Agree

Type name

Mary Anne (Maude) Baum