

Subject: New submission ALBANY Arts, Culture, and Tourism Application**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 at 4:06:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time**From:** jnytko@govsol.org**To:** jnytko@govsol.org

General Information
Date of application
06/26/2023
Name of Entity
Mendelssohn Club of Albany, Inc
Entity TIN, EIN or Social Security Number
14-6031098
Entity physical address
916 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203 United States Map It
Is the physical address different from the mailing address?
Yes
What is the mailing address?
PO Box 8715 Albany, New York 12208-0714 United States Map It
Website (if available)
https://www.mendelssohn.org
Primary Contact Information
Primary contact name
Alvaro Salinero
Primary contact title
Board Member
Primary contact phone
(518) 810-4186
Primary contact email
psaliner@nycap.rr.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?

1909

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?

No

General Project Information

Describe the arts/cultural/tourism activities your organization provides in Albany County.

The Mendelssohn Club of Albany, (the Club) the longest continuously performing arts group in the Capital Region. Founded in 1909, this men's choral group historically has performed subscription concerts in December and May, each attracting hundreds of attendees, as well as singing at gatherings such as the Albany Tulip Festival, performing the National Anthem at college and professional sporting events, and offering benefit concerts for a variety of local organizations. Total audiences each year throughout the Capital Region are well over 1,000.

The Club has also sponsored an awards program, called the Dolven Awards, wherein it gives monetary awards to young singers in the Capital Region, ages 15-23, that allows them to pursue further music study.

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

The Club seeks funding to allow it to continue functioning. Our performances are enjoyed by thousands, mostly citizens of Albany County. The Dolven Awards program has benefited students primarily from Albany County.

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mendelssohn Club performances were in abeyance from the Spring of 2020 through the fall of 2021. The Club also suspended the Dolven Awards Program. The pandemic also led several of our older members to leave the Club.

The Club is also undergoing efforts to lay a strong foundation for the future by attracting younger participants. Such efforts are expected to include reduced membership fees for new members, and steps to reduce the cost of concert attire for members who may have difficulty affording such purchases.

An additional looming expense involves our concert risers, which are over 50 years old. While we have repaired them in the past, they are at such a state that they must be replaced. This will cost approximately \$25,000.

The Club seeks ARPA funding through Albany County to support its program as the requested funding would support normal operational costs and investment in concert risers, for the benefit of Club members and audiences both in 2023 and in the future; and reinstatement of the Dolven Awards.

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 impacts of pandemic-related shutdowns and turnover in membership continue to be felt, such that in comparing 2018-2019 to 2021-2022, revenues were disproportionately lower than expenses -63% and 84%, respectively.

Due to reluctance of many to congregate in close proximity to others while indoors, even if the Club had not suspended operations there would have doubtless been a very significant reduction in audience size, especially during the time that indoor gatherings were prohibited by the State. This was depressed even after resuming performances. Ticket sales for our fall and spring concerts show an attendance for 2021-2022 at just under 60% of what it was for 2018-2019.

Please select the grant opportunity you wish to apply to

Arts, Culture, and Tourism (ACT) Recover Grants (Up to \$50,000)

Project Information – Recovery Grant

What amount of funding is being requested?

\$30,000.00

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

Prior to the pandemic, the total revenue for tax year 2019 (September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020) was \$32,944. It was \$7,491 for tax year 2020.

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.

In addition to suspending Club activities, we held all meetings prior to suspension outdoors and upon resumption of rehearsals we obtained specialized covid masked that are specifically designed for singers.

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

As described above, the pandemic has impacted our operations and affected revenue such that without an infusion of cash, the Club will be hard-pressed to meet necessary expenses and continue operations.

These funds will offset the lost revenues, and help cover the costs of rebuilding the Club, replacing the older members who left because of the pandemic with new, younger members, whom we hope to attract with the offer of reduced membership fees. This will also allow us to reinstate our Doven Awards program which benefits young singers.

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

The Mendelssohn Club has a treasurer who reports to the board at each board meeting with a detailed spreadsheet, and who addresses any questions posed by the Board. If an award is made expenses attributable to such funding will be tracked.

Tax Information**Please upload Federal tax returns for 2019**

- [Mendelssohn-Club-2019-990EZ.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for 2020

- [Mendelssohn-Club-2020-990EZ.pdf](#)

Please upload Federal tax returns for 2021

- [Mendelssohn-Club-2021-990EZ.PDF](#)

If available, please provide your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov

14-6031098

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

Art. 9 of the Club constitution requires the Club treasurer to retain all financial records and make the same available to the Board. Although there are no formal rules regarding ethics, conflicts of interest or non-discrimination, the conduct of the club is guided by its directors, many of whom are attorneys or retired attorneys, who are familiar with generally accepted standards in these areas.

Is the entity properly insured?

Yes

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

Property and general liability in the amounts of \$1,000,000/occurrence; \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.

Does the entity have a financial management system?

Yes

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

The club has a treasurer who maintains oversight of club finances and reports to the Board of Directors. Pursuant to Art. 9 of the Club constitution, the treasurer cannot contract on behalf of the club without board approval; he is responsible to receipt, custody and disbursement of club funds; he is responsible for understanding the nature of tax exempt organizations and monitoring the financial status of the club; he must issue annual reports to the club membership, which, along with supporting financial documents must be made available to the chairman of the audit committee; also, he must publish a monthly report to the board which become part of the official board minutes.

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)?

No

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

Alvaro Salinero