



2026-2027 Welte Society Cultural Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

Purpose, Funding, and Proposal Submission Guidelines

Grant Period: Award Date – June 30, 2027

IMPORTANT DATES AND OVERVIEW

Proposals Due	Proposal Review Period Ends	Awards Announced by	Final Report Due
October 30, 2026 12:00 noon	November 13, 2026	November 20, 2026	September 30, 2027

Purpose of the Welte Society Fund

The Welte Society Fund was established within the CCSU Foundation to support special cultural programs that enrich and broaden the educational experience at Central Connecticut State University and contribute to the cultural life of the University and the surrounding community.

The Fund reflects Dr. Herbert D. Welte's belief that a meaningful education extends beyond classroom instruction. Dr. Welte recognized the importance of providing students with opportunities to encounter outstanding artists, performances, exhibitions, ideas, and experiences that expand their perspectives and contribute to a rich intellectual and cultural environment on campus. He also understood that such programs could serve the broader community while strengthening Central's role as an important cultural resource.

Consistent with that vision, the annual distribution from the Welte Society Fund will be awarded competitively through the **Welte Society Cultural Grant Program** to support programs and activities conducted or sponsored by Central that provide meaningful cultural enrichment for students and, when appropriate, the broader community.

Grant Cycle

The Welte Society Cultural Grant Program **application deadline is Friday, October 30, 2026, 12:00 noon.**

Applications received by the deadline will be reviewed competitively, with funding decisions based on the merits of the proposals, their alignment with the purpose of the Welte Society Fund, and the availability of funds.



All activities supported by a Welte Society Cultural Grant must be **completed by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the grant is awarded** in order to align with the CCSU Foundation's fiscal year. Applicants should plan proposed activities and expenditures accordingly. Grant funds may not be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

Individual grant awards may not exceed **\$10,000**. Applicants may request any amount up to the \$10,000 maximum and should develop budgets that reflect the actual and reasonable costs of the proposed activity.

Definition of Cultural Programming

For purposes of the Welte Society Cultural Grant Program, **culture is interpreted broadly.**

Cultural programming encompasses activities and experiences that expose participants to artistic expression, intellectual traditions, history, heritage, ideas, identities, perspectives, customs, creative practices, or other dimensions of human experience that contribute to a broader understanding of people and the world.

A proposal does not need to involve the traditional fine arts to qualify as cultural programming. The central consideration is whether the proposed activity provides an experience beyond ordinary classroom instruction that meaningfully **enriches, broadens, inspires, or enlightens** its participants.

Cultural programming may be artistic, historical, literary, intellectual, interdisciplinary, educational, experiential, or community-oriented.

Fundable Programs and Activities

Welte Society Cultural Grants may support a wide range of programs, including, but not limited to:

- **Performing arts**, including music, theater, dance, opera, spoken-word performances, and other live performances;
- **Visual arts and exhibitions**, including art exhibitions, installations, photography, film, design, architecture, and other forms of visual or creative expression;
- **Visiting artists, writers, scholars, performers, and cultural figures** whose presence provides students and the University community with opportunities not ordinarily available through the regular curriculum;
- **Lectures, readings, conversations, panels, symposia, and public programs** that explore significant cultural, historical, literary, artistic, philosophical, or societal topics;



- **Literature and the humanities**, including author visits, poetry and literary programs, storytelling, philosophy, history, and interdisciplinary humanities programming;
- **Film and media programs**, including screenings, festivals, documentaries, discussions, and programs examining film, media, journalism, or other forms of cultural communication;
- **Cultural heritage and traditions**, including programs exploring the traditions, histories, languages, foodways, music, art, stories, celebrations, and experiences of communities in Connecticut, the United States, and throughout the world;
- **Museums, archives, public history, and material culture**, including exhibitions, collections-based programs, historical interpretation, and programs that connect participants with cultural or historical resources;
- **Interdisciplinary cultural programming** that brings together the arts, humanities, sciences, technology, business, education, or other disciplines to explore ideas or human experiences from multiple perspectives;
- **Participatory and experiential cultural activities**, such as workshops, demonstrations, residencies, master classes, community arts activities, and other opportunities in which participants actively engage with cultural practices;
- **Programs highlighting innovation and creativity**, particularly when they connect creative expression, intellectual exploration, and the broader human experience;
- **Community-facing cultural programs** conducted or sponsored by Central that strengthen the University's role as a cultural resource for the region; and
- **Other special programs or experiences** that advance the Welte Society's fundamental purpose of enriching and broadening the lives and perspectives of Central's students and neighbors.

This list is illustrative rather than exhaustive. Applicants are encouraged to propose creative and innovative programs that advance the purposes of the Welte Society Fund.

Characteristics of a Strong Welte Society Proposal

Priority should be given to proposals that demonstrate one or more of the following:

Enrichment beyond the classroom.

The program provides students with an opportunity or experience that supplements and extends the University's regular academic offerings.

**Breadth of experience.**

The program introduces participants to ideas, perspectives, traditions, artistic expression, or experiences that broaden their understanding of the world.

Quality and distinction.

The proposal brings noteworthy artists, performers, speakers, scholars, exhibitions, programs, or experiences to Central or otherwise provides access to cultural opportunities of meaningful quality.

Student benefit.

Central students are significant intended beneficiaries of the proposed activity.

Campus or community reach.

The program has the potential to benefit audiences beyond a single class or small group and, where appropriate, is accessible to members of the broader University or surrounding community.

Contribution to Central's cultural life.

The program enhances the intellectual, artistic, creative, or cultural vitality of the campus and reinforces Central's role as a cultural resource.

Opportunity for engagement.

Whenever practical, programs should provide opportunities for participants to engage with artists, performers, speakers, scholars, cultural practitioners, materials, or ideas rather than serving solely as passive audiences.

Relationship to the Academic Curriculum

Welte Society funding is intended to **supplement rather than replace ordinary instructional and departmental resources.**

A program may have a strong academic connection and may complement a course, academic discipline, or area of study. However, proposals should demonstrate a broader enrichment purpose consistent with the Welte Society's mission.

Programs originating within an academic department are encouraged, particularly when they create opportunities that extend beyond the students enrolled in a particular course.

Examples of Appropriate Expenses

Depending upon the nature of the proposal, Welte Society Cultural Grant funds may be used for reasonable expenses necessary to present the approved program, including artist, performer, speaker, or facilitator fees; travel and lodging for invited participants; performance or exhibition expenses; venue and production costs; licensing or screening



fees; materials necessary for workshops or participatory activities; publicity and promotional expenses; and other direct program costs.

All expenditures must be consistent with CCSU Foundation policies and the approved grant proposal.

Generally Not Intended for Support

The Welte Society Cultural Grant Program is generally not intended to support:

- Routine departmental operating expenses;
- Regularly scheduled classroom instruction or ordinary course expenses;
- Faculty or staff salaries for their normal University responsibilities;
- Equipment purchases that are primarily intended for ongoing departmental use rather than necessary to accomplish a specific approved cultural program;
- Activities whose primary purpose is professional development for University employees;
- Programs whose principal purpose is fundraising;
- Activities primarily benefiting an individual rather than a broader student, campus, or community audience; or
- Study abroad programs or experiences, including individual or group study abroad, faculty-led study abroad, and expenses associated with student, faculty, or staff participation in study abroad activities. This exclusion does not apply to bringing international artists, performers, speakers, scholars, or other cultural guests to Central as part of an otherwise eligible program;
- Expenses unrelated to the cultural purpose described in the approved proposal.

The fact that a proposed activity falls outside one of the examples specifically identified in these guidelines does not make it ineligible. Proposals should be evaluated principally on their alignment with the **purpose and spirit of the Welte Society Fund**.



Proposal Submission Guidelines

File format and content: Submit proposals from your Central email address to CCSUgrants@ccsu.edu as a **single** Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) file by 12:00 noon on the due date, inclusive of:

- Proposal Cover Sheet provided at <https://www.ccsu.edu/gfr/internal-grants>. **This form must be used**
- Proposal Narrative including page numbers
- Budget Template provided at <https://www.ccsu.edu/gfr/internal-grants>. **This form must be used**
- Supporting Documentation: **Links are not permitted**. Screenshots of any travel cost documentation must be included.
- Please do not include your CV unless you are specifically asked to do so

Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a deduction of points in scoring.

Proposal Narrative: Address the content areas listed below in no more than five pages, in accordance with the information provided above. Please number the pages of your narrative. Please keep in mind that the Committee is made up of faculty members from different disciplines. Write your proposal so that members from outside your discipline are able to review it to make funding decisions.

- **Descriptive Title:** Brief proposal name as you would wish it to appear in award announcements and reports published by GFR.
- **Description of Activity:** Clearly define the activity and goal(s) of what you are proposing.
- **Cultural Enrichment and Impact:** Describe how the proposed activity advances the purpose of the Welte Society Cultural Grant Program by providing meaningful cultural enrichment beyond classroom instruction. Explain how the activity will provide students with opportunities to engage with outstanding artists, performances, exhibitions, ideas, or other experiences that broaden their perspectives and contribute to the intellectual and cultural environment at Central. If applicable, describe how the activity will engage the broader community and strengthen Central's role as a cultural resource. Identify the anticipated outcomes of the activity and explain how you will determine the extent to which its stated goals are achieved.
- **Other Funding Sought:** Please indicate if you are seeking or have sought other grants/funding for the proposed grant activities from other sources. Please specify when funding will be or was sought and from what sources



Budget: Budgets should offer a realistic estimate of the funding required to support the proposed activities. Please use the Budget Template provided. Include the information listed below.

- Itemize the specific expenses. Line-item amounts should be rounded to the nearest whole dollar
- Provide a clear and detailed justification for the items requested
- Documentation of item costs must be included. Without supporting budget documentation, funding may be reduced. **Links are not permitted**; please attach screenshots showing travel costs.

All grant activities must take place within the grant period, and related budget expenditures must be completed by June 30, 2027, after which all unexpended funds will be returned to the Welte Grant Program account, to be used in future grant competitions.

Guiding Principle for Award Decisions

When determining whether a proposal is appropriate for Welte Society support, reviewers will consider the fundamental question:

Does this program provide Central's students – and, where appropriate, its neighbors – with an opportunity to encounter ideas, expression, perspectives, traditions, or experiences that enrich and broaden their lives beyond what the University ordinarily provides through classroom instruction?

If the answer is yes, the proposal should generally be considered within the scope of the Welte Society Cultural Grant Program.

Through these grants, the CCSU Foundation seeks to continue the vision embodied in the Welte Society Fund: ensuring that Central remains not only a place of instruction, but also a place where students and the community encounter the performances, exhibitions, ideas, people, traditions, and experiences that transform education into enlightenment.

Please see proposal scoring rubric below.

Recognition of Welte Society Support

Recipients of Welte Society Cultural Grant funding are required to **prominently acknowledge the Welte Society of the CCSU Foundation as a sponsor** of the funded program or activity.



This acknowledgment must appear, as applicable, on all promotional and program materials associated with the funded activity, including printed programs, flyers, posters, invitations, websites, event listings, digital communications, and other publicity or marketing materials.

The acknowledgment should read:

“Sponsored by the Welte Society of the CCSU Foundation.”

When the Welte Society is one of multiple sponsors, the acknowledgment may read:

“With support from the Welte Society of the CCSU Foundation.”

Recognition should be reasonably prominent and commensurate with the level of support provided. Grant recipients are responsible for ensuring that Welte Society recognition is included in materials produced by their department, program, or any collaborating unit.

For additional information, please contact Marita Preston, Assistant Director of Grants and Funded Research at m.preston@ccsu.edu or 860-832-2365; Brenda Lopez, Grants & Funded Research Administrator at b.lopez@ccsu.edu or 860-832-2366.

THE WELTE SOCIETY CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM

Scoring Rubric

Criterion	Max	Scoring Guidance	Score
1. Alignment with Welte Society Purpose How strongly does the proposal advance the Fund's purpose of providing special cultural programming that enriches and broadens the lives and perspectives of Central students and, when appropriate, the surrounding community?	25	23–25: Exceptional alignment; clearly embodies the Welte vision and offers meaningful enrichment beyond ordinary instruction. 19–22: Strong alignment; substantial cultural and educational enrichment. 14–18: Moderate alignment; cultural value is evident but impact or connection to purpose is less compelling. 0–13: Weak or unclear alignment with the Fund's purpose.	—
2. Student Impact & Breadth of Experience To what extent will the program provide meaningful opportunities for Central students to encounter ideas, perspectives, traditions, creative expression, or experiences that broaden their education?	20	18–20: Exceptional student benefit and breadth; likely to be memorable or transformative. 15–17: Strong student benefit and meaningful enrichment. 11–14: Moderate benefit or relatively limited breadth. 0–10: Limited or unclear student benefit.	—
3. Cultural Quality, Distinction & Engagement Does the proposal offer a high-quality cultural experience, including opportunities to engage meaningfully with artists, performers, speakers, scholars, cultural practitioners, exhibitions, materials, or ideas?	15	14–15: Outstanding quality/distinction with strong participant engagement. 11–13: Strong quality and meaningful engagement. 8–10: Adequate quality; engagement is limited or largely passive. 0–7: Quality or cultural engagement is weak or unclear.	—
4. Reach, Accessibility & Community Benefit How broadly accessible is the program? Does it reach beyond a single class or small group and contribute to Central's role as a cultural resource for the campus and/or surrounding community?	15	14–15: Broad, well-defined reach; highly accessible and/or strong community benefit. 11–13: Good reach and accessibility beyond a narrow audience. 8–10: Some broader reach, but audience or accessibility is limited. 0–7: Primarily serves a narrow group with little demonstrated broader benefit.	—
5. Feasibility & Program Planning Is the proposal well conceived and realistically achievable within the proposed timeline? Are the program plan, responsibilities, logistics, and anticipated outcomes sufficiently clear?	10	9–10: Excellent planning; highly feasible with clear execution and outcomes. 7–8: Solid and feasible plan with minor unanswered questions. 5–6: Generally feasible but important details are underdeveloped. 0–4: Significant feasibility, planning, or timeline concerns.	—
6. Budget & Stewardship of Welte Funds Is the budget reasonable, well explained, and proportionate to the anticipated cultural and student impact? Does the proposal demonstrate responsible use of Foundation resources?	10	9–10: Clear, reasonable, cost-effective budget; excellent stewardship. 7–8: Appropriate budget with minor questions or opportunities for refinement. 5–6: Generally reasonable but insufficiently detailed or somewhat disproportionate to impact. 0–4: Significant budget concerns or weak justification.	—
7. Added Value / Special Opportunity Does Welte funding make possible a distinctive opportunity that would not otherwise be available, or meaningfully enhance Central's cultural life beyond ordinary University programming?	5	5: Exceptional added value or distinctive opportunity. 4: Strong added value. 2–3: Some added value. 0–1: Limited evidence that the grant creates a special or additional opportunity.	—