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## CUArts Wants You to Spend Their Cash

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The Arts Initiative at Columbia University, or CUArts, as it is more widely known, is looking for students with creative ways to spend someone else's money.

Any student with an artistic vision has the opportunity to see it actualized with the financial support of CUArts' Sainsbury Student Support Fund. As the Sainsbury Fund is only a year old, it remains largely untapped.

As Gregory Mosher, director of the Arts Initiative said, "We have more money than applications."

Created through the philanthropy of David Sainsbury, who received an MBA from Columbia Business School, the Sainsbury Fund has helped 41 different projects come to fruition.

According to Caralyn Spector, project coordinator of the Arts Initiative, some notable projects that utilized the Sainsbury Fund include XMAS! A Secular Spectacular, a Humanitarian Affairs photo exhibit at SIPA, the "Music of the Spheres" concert series in connection with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and such publications as The Blue and White and The Birch.

The object of the Sainsbury Fund is to be accessible to any University student. Mosher describes how the Arts Initiative quickly found its motivation in a question University President Lee Bollinger posed to him, asking if it would be possible to make the arts a part of the experience of every Columbia student.

The Sainsbury Fund's goal is simply to make the creative visions of any member of the Columbia community a possibility without the normal financial limitations. "That's one of the most exciting things we do, support everything artistic on campus," said Spector.

The requirements for a project to receive assistance through the Sainsbury Fund are thus not based on who is applying, but instead for what project they are applying. Mosher points out that money will go to people "with an interest in art, not only those who have devoted their life to art-it's not career oriented."

To be eligible, applicants must either be current Columbia students or, if a group is applying, it must be composed of at least 80 percent current students. Even if student groups already receive money from the University, they are still eligible for financial support through the Sainsbury Fund. One of the

few restrictions is that the student or group cannot be receiving academic credit for the proposed project.

No applicants have been denied that were eligible, so Mosher and Spector have not developed other criteria for evaluation.

Applications are due on the first Monday of each month and should be submitted over a month before the funding is needed. Details and a downloadable application are available on the Arts Initiative Web site: [www.cuarts.com](http://www.cuarts.com). Included in the application is a brief questionnaire and description of the proposed project in addition to a line-item budget for the project.

The biggest problem so far has been the follow-up process concerning records of the students' use of the granted money. The individual or group receives their money once the project is approved, but a detailed account, including receipts, must be kept to insure that money is spent in appropriate ways.

If students cannot improve their accounting skills, the Fund will be set up so that it will only reimburse students for money spent on the project—a complication that would pressure students to use personal resources, something that the Sainsbury Fund expressly wishes to avoid.

Mosher points out that at the beginning of the Arts Initiative there were 150 arts groups on campus. Part of the Arts Initiative is to acknowledge that this is a strong community, not a group on the fringe of the University. This ready availability of financial aid certainly helps that objective.

Now, it's up to the students to tap this fund.

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