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# Ellwood City Ledger

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | ELLWOODCITYLEDGER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Program gives struggling artists \$1,000 a month



A few commissions, contracts, sales or cancellations can dramatically change what artists earn in a given year. GETTY IMAGES

The result: freedom and time to focus on their art

**Joanna Woronkovicz**  
Indiana University  
**and Doug Noonan**  
Indiana University Indianapolis  
THE CONVERSATION

Though artificial intelligence is making it easier than ever to produce images, music and text, the technology is also making it harder for the people who have traditionally produced this work to earn a living.

A photographer who once was commissioned to make art for an advertising campaign is now competing with graphics produced by the AI image generator Midjourney. A novelist who used to make money on the side as a technical writer is seeing that work be replaced by a series of prompts in ChatGPT.

The extent to which AI will upend cre-

The program selected artists through a weighted lottery. It adopted an expansive definition of "artist." Anyone engaged in artistic, cultural or community-centered creative practices – such as musicians, storytellers or muralists – was eligible to apply.

ative work remains unsettled. But that uncertainty has made guaranteeing income for creatives a more viable policy idea.

In fact, creatives in New York recently

participated in the largest basic income program for artists in U.S. history, the Guaranteed Income for Artists initiative.

Spearheaded by Creatives Rebuild New York and primarily funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program gave 2,400 artists across New York state \$1,000 a month beginning in June 2022. There were no work requirements and no restrictions on how the money could be spent. The program sought to improve the financial stability of artists and encourage the public to see them as workers who deserve a stable income and social support.

As researchers who study artists, cultural work and public policy, we evaluated this program to see whether it achieved its stated goals. Our main finding was simple: Artists did not stop working. Instead, they changed the kind of work they did.

See PROGRAM, Page 3A

ELIGIBLE FOR SENIORS

## Farmers market voucher program begins

**Beth Ann Miller**  
Beaver County Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Distribution begins July 10 for Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers in Beaver County, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Beaver County Office on Aging.

Eligible seniors can receive five vouchers of \$5 each, for a total of \$25, to purchase Pennsylvania-grown fresh fruits, vegetables and edible herbs from approved markets and farm stands through Nov. 30. Vouchers

See VOUCHER, Page 2A

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