

## **Meet the Grantmakers: Funding for Arts Organizations**

*April 15, 2009*

### **Profile Form**

**ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:**

The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation

**PANELIST NAME & TITLE:**

Joe Mitchell, President and Managing Director

**ADDRESS & PHONE:**

350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4301  
New York, NY 10119  
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**INTERESTS:**

**(e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support or service, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)**

The Foundation's core mission in the performing arts is to support on an ongoing basis a roster of NYC performing companies and presenters who deliver work of the highest artistic quality in the fields of dance, music, opera, and theater. The Foundation also supports programs of professional education and development for students pursuing the performing arts as a career, and for young professionals. The Foundation generally provides project support for large organizations' core artistic missions and season support or general operating support for mid-size and small organizations. The Foundation does not generally support capital or endowment campaigns and does not make grants to individuals.

**CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:**

**(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size or range, summary of technical assistance etc.)**

2008 grants: \$5,250,000. Range: \$5,000 to \$250,000. Number: approx. 137.

**OTHER:**

The Foundation does not generally make multi-year grants, but once on the roster, an organization can anticipate that their funding will be renewed on the basis of their report and application for the following year. The most common reason for an organization not to have its grant renewed is their decision to schedule no NYC public performances for the year in question. While they are not funded for the hiatus year, they are considered still to be on the roster and can apply for the following year. While there has been only one year out of the last 18 that the Foundation has not made grants to new organizations, the roster nature of the program means that most first-time applications are unsuccessful.

## **PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Joseph C. Mitchell is the President and CEO of The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., an endowed private grant making charity located in New York City. The Foundation dispenses \$8-\$10 million each year to New York City presenting and producing organizations in the performing arts and to social service and healthcare agencies that operate programs to improve the lives of the City's elderly. Mr. Mitchell has responsibility for overseeing the Foundation's grant programs and is chairman of the Finance Committee which sets and monitors the Foundation's investment strategy.

Prior to coming to the Samuels Foundation in 1992, Mr. Mitchell practiced law in New York City for more than 20 years where he represented private charitable organizations and wealthy families.

Mr. Mitchell's undergraduate degree is from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and his law degree is from Columbia University School of Law.

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