

Culture Works Community Arts Grants

Evaluation Criteria

All applicants must receive an average score of at least 70/100 points to be eligible for funding. These 100 points are distributed among three scoring areas:

Public Benefit and Access: 45 points

An organization's ability to demonstrate impact and value for community members who engage with arts and cultural opportunities. *Each criterion is worth up to 10 points*

- Organization clearly defines and understands the community it serves (geographic, cultural, economic, behavioral, etc.).
- Programs and services, facilities, and online media are accessible to varied audiences and accountable to the community.
- Has an effective strategy to engage new people (e.g. partners, ticket buyers, patrons, visitors, students).
- Programs and services demonstrate relevance for the community (i.e. social, educational, economic).
- Furthers its mission through meaningful and impactful community partnerships.
- Collects feedback from the community and uses it to inform organizational strategies and programming.
- Has a clear plan to improve in areas relevant to the above in the upcoming fiscal year.

Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: 35 points

An organization's ability to create quality, mission-driven work that inspires and challenges the community. *Each criterion is worth up to 10 points*

- Develops creative and coherent programming that is aligned with the organization's mission.
- Recognized locally, regionally, nationally or internationally for its artistic or cultural programming.
- Employs qualified and diverse artistic or cultural personnel who have clearly defined roles.
- Creates work that is innovative and evolving creatively and demonstrates a willingness to experiment with programming (including managing for risk/failure).

- Sets artistic or cultural quality standards and regularly measures itself against these criteria.
- Has a clear plan to improve in areas relevant to the above in the upcoming fiscal year.

Organizational Capacity: 20 points

An organization's ability to manage effectively and efficiently for today and tomorrow.

Each criterion is worth up to 5 points

- Implements a board-approved strategic plan; demonstrates clear leadership roles and methods for measuring progress.
- Cultivates a diverse and engaged board of trustees that provides sound leadership and financial support.
- Recruits, evaluates and retains a qualified and diverse professional management staff; demonstrates a commitment to staff professional development and improvement. Recruits and trains a strong base of volunteers (non-board) to help the organization achieve its mission.
- Provides sound fiscal management and oversight; employs fundraising strategies appropriate to organization size and community served; generally operates with a surplus, maintaining a base of unrestricted liquid net assets for risk.
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of its financial situation and operating environment and has a plan for improvement.