



Cultural Facilities Grant Guidelines | FY2017

These grants help Vermont nonprofit organizations and municipalities enhance, create, or expand the capacity of an existing building to provide cultural activities for the public. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- improvements to wiring, heating, lighting, and plumbing
- accessibility features such as elevators, lifts, assistive listening systems, ramps and bathrooms
- stage improvements such as curtains, lighting, and rigging
- permanent display panels or exhibit cases
- fixed equipment expenses
- wireless/broadband for enhancing programming capacity

Cultural Facilities Grants do not fund:

- overhead, operating support, studies, surveys, engineering reports or architectural fees
- programming, temporary exhibits, performances, or activities
- multi-year projects
- routine maintenance i.e. exterior or interior painting, carpeting
- moveable furniture, rugs, or appliances
- major structural repairs to foundations, roofs, windows, etc.
- new construction unless directly connected to accessibility improvements

Who May Apply or Receive Funding

Vermont municipalities or 501(c)3 nonprofit cultural organizations incorporated in the State of Vermont that:

- own and operate the facility
- have or have applied for a Dun and Bradstreet number

Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding

Any organization or municipality that:

- has an outstanding final report with the Arts Council
- received a Cultural Facilities Grant of any value during the previous fiscal year
- received a Cultural Facilities Grant of \$15,000 or more in one of the past two fiscal years
- received a grant from any other [Building Communities competitive grant programs](#) in the same fiscal year in which they are applying for a Cultural Facilities Grant
- has received \$50,000 or more from the State Capital Appropriations Budget within the past three years
- is a Vermont public school (Pre-K through 12, state colleges, and/or university)

Grant Amounts and Matching Requirements

Awards range from \$1,000 to \$30,000 and must be matched on a 1:1 basis. At least 50% of the match must be in cash. Up to 50% can be in well-documented in-kind materials and/or labor. Funds from other state sources may not be used to match a Cultural Facilities grant. Funds will be issued only after the project work is completed and the required reports are submitted. Grant amounts are dependent upon state funding and are subject to change.

Criteria for Selection and Expectations

Applicants should provide a clear presentation of the project that is consistent with the organization's mission and demonstrates:

- overall project quality
- response to community needs and interests
- expanded or improved use of an existing public facility for cultural activities
- well-planned ongoing cultural activities open to the public
- a prioritized plan for facility improvements
- the preservation of significant historic features and consideration of community context when renovations are occurring in an historic building
- compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009
- a reasonable and appropriate budget and grant request
- strong fundraising efforts and a well-articulated case for need
- maximized use of available funding and community resources

Funding Requirements

- Work undertaken on historic buildings must meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects](#).
- Grant funds and matching funds may only be used for materials ordered or purchased and for work begun and completed after notification.
- Construction must be done in adherence to relevant building codes and guidelines i.e. 2010 Standards for Accessible Design.

Application and Deadline

Application deadline is May 2, 2016. Notification will occur by August 1, 2016. Funded activities must be completed between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017. Application must be submitted through the Council's online granting system.

[Preparing Your Application](#)

Access and Non-Discrimination Policy

The Vermont Arts Council is committed to supporting entities that maintain an environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic bias, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or other category protected by applicable state or federal law.

Arts Council grant recipients who receive federal or state funds must be in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Questions?

Inquiries about the Cultural Facilities Grant program should be made by [email to Michele Bailey](#), or by calling 802.828.3294.

Inquiries about using the online application system should be made by [email to Troy Hickman](#) or by calling 802.828.3292.