



Arts Impact Grant Guidelines | FY2021

These guidelines are from the past grant round, now closed. These are posted here for reference only. Check back for updated information and feel free to reach out to the program manager with any questions.

Arts Impact Grants support nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and schools in their efforts to add vibrancy to Vermont communities by providing equal and abundant access to the arts. Some examples of recently funded projects include:

- African diaspora artists working with scholars to enhance an ethnic studies program for K-12 students
- the production and presentation of a new symphony involving immigrant musicians
- performing arts workshops for students with intellectual disabilities

Who May Apply

Vermont nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, agencies of state government, counties, and municipalities are eligible to apply. Groups without tax-exempt status may apply using a fiscal agent. A fiscal agent must be a charitable nonprofit organization incorporated in Vermont as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All applicants (or the fiscal agent) must have a [D-U-N-S number](#).

Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding

- current Arts Partner grantee organizations or FY2021 Arts Partners applicants (Arts Partners may serve as fiscal agents)
- organizations that have received any other Arts Council grant in the same fiscal year to support the same project
- organizations with outstanding or incomplete reporting for any Vermont Arts Council grant
- schools seeking funding for an artist residency during the school day (schools should apply to the [Artists in Schools Grant program](#) for such projects)

Grant Amounts and Matching Requirements

Grant awards range from \$500-\$3,000; a 1:1 cash match is required. The full grant amount will be paid on receipt of a signed contract and after September 1, 2020. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Priority Areas

We are especially interested in projects that respond creatively to the Council's program priorities:

- **Expanding access to the arts and cultural activities for all Vermonters.** This might include, for example, projects that engage individuals with limited access to the arts due to age, ability, income, race, geography, or other factors

- **Creative placemaking.** We welcome projects that re-envision public spaces and strengthen community identity through the arts

Criteria for Selection

Successful applicants will address all of the criteria to the best of their abilities. Applications will be evaluated on the demonstration of:

artistic merit (50%)

- creative experience is well-planned, of high artistic excellence, and involves qualified personnel
- artists involved are appropriately compensated
- meaningful community partnerships exist between arts and non-arts groups or entities that enhance the quality of the project

project impact (30%)

- realistic and achievable activities that positively impact the participants and community, specifically new and/or underserved populations/audiences (e.g., rural, low income, New American, at-risk youth, or individuals with various disabilities)
- well-defined and measurable goals with a clear plan for evaluation

project management (20%)

- clear and reasonable budget
- compliant with access and nondiscrimination policies and laws
- realistic timeline

Grantee Requirements

Grantees will be expected to sign a contract agreeing to specific funding requirements. A final report will be due thirty days after the end of the proposed activity, and no later than September 30, 2021.

Application and Deadline

Application deadline is May 1, 2020. Notification by email will occur by August 3, 2020. Funded activities must be completed between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021. Applications must be submitted through the Council's [online granting system](#).

The Council welcomes conversations well in advance of your application. Our role is to help you prepare the strongest application possible and support your process.

Access and Nondiscrimination 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), the ADA Amendment Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-325) which became effective on January 1, 2009.

Questions?

Inquiries about the Arts Impact Grant program or about using the online granting system should be made by sending an [email to Meredith Bell](#) or by calling 802.828.3292.