



Arts Impact Grant | FY2022 Guidelines

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. **To further support our creative sector, the Arts Impact Grant program is also expanding to include small operating grants to arts organizations.** Eligible applicants may only apply for one grant—either a project grant or an operating grant.

Who May Apply

- Arts organizations may apply for project funding or an operating grant (but not both).
- Vermont nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, agencies of state government, counties, and municipalities are eligible to apply for project grants.
- Organizations that received the Cultural Relief Grant from the Vermont Arts Council or Vermont Humanities and/or the Vermont Economic Recovery Grant for Cultural Organizations from ACCD are eligible to apply for this program.

Fiscal Agents

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](#). The [fiscal agent form](#) must be completed and uploaded with the application.

Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding

- current FY2021-2023 Arts Partner grantee organizations
- organizations with outstanding or incomplete reporting for any Vermont Arts Council grant
- schools seeking funding for an artist residency during the school day (apply instead to the [Artists in Schools Grant program](#) for such projects)

Grant Amounts

Grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$4,000. No match is required. The full grant amount will be paid on receipt of a signed contract and after September 1, 2021. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and are subject to change.

Priority Areas

We are especially interested in projects and organizations that respond creatively to the following:

- **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.

Project Grant applications will be evaluated on the demonstration of:

artistic merit (70%)

- creative experience is well-planned, of high artistic quality, and involves qualified personnel
- provides a rewarding and/or positive art experience for the participants and/or community
- artists and other creatives involved are appropriately compensated
- meaningful community partnerships exist between arts and non-arts groups/entities that enhance the quality of the project
- the project positively impacts participants and/or the community, specifically underrepresented groups (e.g., low income, New American, at-risk youth, BIPOC, individuals with various disabilities, LGBTQ+, etc.)

project management (30%)

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

Operating Grant applications will be evaluated on the demonstration of:

artistic merit (60%)

- high-quality artistic programs or services regularly offered
- fair and appropriate compensation provided to artists involved with programming
- meaningful community partnerships exist between arts and non-arts groups/entities
- the organization positively impacts participants and/or the community, specifically underrepresented groups (e.g., low income, New American, at-risk youth, BIPOC, individuals with various disabilities, LGBTQ+, etc.)

organizational capacity (40%)

- clear and reasonable operating budget
- qualified personnel on staff or as consultants
- compliant with access and nondiscrimination policies and laws

Application and Deadline

The application deadline is **June 11, 2021**. Grant award notifications will occur by the end of August. Funded activities must be completed between **September 1, 2021** and **August 31, 2022**. 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.

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, 2022.

See [Applicant and Grantee Information](#) for more information regarding requirements.

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), and 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 802.402.4478.