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 a Cultural Relief Grant, a Cultural Recovery Grant, Vermont Economic Recovery Grants, or other forms of state or federal COVID relief 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. The fiscal agent form must be completed and uploaded with the application. All applicants (or the fiscal agent) must have a Unique Entity ID (UEI).

Unique Entity ID (UEI)
As of April 4, 2022, the federal government transitioned from the use of DUNS Numbers to a new Unique Entity ID (UEI). All organizations applying for funding will be required to have a UEI. This ID is a 12-character alphanumeric value assigned, managed, and owned by the federal government through SAM.gov. Learn how to get your free UEI here.

Who May Not Apply or Receive Funding
- Current FY2021-2023 Arts Partner grantee organizations
- Individuals
- 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 completed direct deposit authorization and after September 1, 2022. 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.

Accessibility
All applicants funded by the Vermont Arts Council must comply with access policies and laws. Programs and activities are more welcoming and inclusive when they engage a broad spectrum of people in integrated settings that provide equal, effective, and enjoyable arts experiences for all. This includes participants, visitors, staff, patrons, and artists along with their friends and families. Please refer to these resources for more guides to accessibility. You can also submit ADA questions confidentially through the New England ADA Call Center.

It’s also important to include accessibility costs when budgeting for projects, programming, and events. The application preview provides a few samples of potential costs for accessibility services. Costs will vary depending on the event, service, and provider. The resources above provide some contact information for specific services.

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
- Potential 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. These groups can include people of color; indigenous people; people who identify as LGBTQ+; people with disabilities; people who identify as immigrants or refugees; people whose first (or only) language is not English, at-risk youth, etc.

**project management (30%)**
- Clear and reasonable project budget
- Compliant with access and nondiscrimination policies and laws
- Realistic potential timeline
Criteria for Selection (continued)

**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. These groups can include people of color; indigenous people; people who identify as LGBTQ+; people with disabilities; people who identify as immigrants or refugees; people whose first (or only) language is not English, at-risk youth, 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 13, 2022** at 11:59 p.m. Applicants will receive email notification by the end of August. Funded activities must be completed between **September 1, 2022** and **August 31, 2023**. Applications must be submitted through the Council’s [online granting system](#). If you require an alternate format or assistance to access the application, please [send an email to Meredith Bell](#).

New users must first [register in the grant portal](#). New user accounts for organizations must be reviewed and approved by Council staff before grant applications can be accessed. Please register early as approval can take 1-2 business days to occur.

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, 2023.

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.