



Arts Partnership Program Guidelines | FY2018 – FY2020

Arts Partners deliver high-quality arts programs and support Vermont artists. They partner with civic, non-arts, and/or educational organizations to provide creative opportunities for people in Vermont of all ages and abilities in community settings, both in and outside of schools.

The strongest applicants demonstrate high capacity for:

- tracking specific metrics over time
- participating in meetings, gatherings, and phone calls that are part of the program
- leading with a collaborative spirit and a practice of working with arts and non-arts organizations
- organizational sustainability with regard to financial health and human resources
- understanding the needs of the community in which the organization works, and providing programming that addresses those needs

Who May Apply

Organizations incorporated in the state of Vermont with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status or municipal arts agencies with a primary stated mission to serve the arts which have:

- operated continually for a minimum of five years
- have or have applied for a [Dun & Bradstreet Number](#)
- retained at least one full-time (or full-time equivalent) paid staff member over the past fiscal year, and will retain at least one full-time (or full-time equivalent) paid staff member over the next three fiscal years
- provided year-round programming/services for at least the past fiscal year, and will continue to provide year-round programming over the next three fiscal years
- facilities and programs that are accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities

Funding Amounts and Matching Requirements

Funding will be between \$5,000 (minimum) and \$7,000 (maximum) each year for three years beginning in FY2018. A 2:1 match of non-federal funds is required.

Stipends of up to \$100/activity will help offset the cost of time and travel invested in participating in the required activities. Total amount of stipends for any one organization may not exceed \$400 per year.

This program operates on a three-year grant cycle beginning September 1, 2017. Support for the subsequent year will depend on the partner's ability to fulfill the terms of the grant contract and on the Arts Council's ability to maintain the program budget at the same level. Grant amounts are dependent upon federal and state funding and may be subject to change. Arts Partners are required to demonstrate they have fulfilled the contract terms annually by submitting an end-of-year report each year. Continued eligibility will be determined when the end-of-year report is filed.

This program will reopen for applications in FY2020. Applicants who do not become partners in the FY2018 round may apply for Arts Impact Grant support for FY2019. [Arts Impact Grants](#) are available on an annual basis.

What We Do Not Fund

Operating support provided through the Arts Partner program may not fund capital construction, the purchase of permanent equipment, the offset of previous operating deficits, fundraising events, food and beverages, lobbying expense, travel abroad, programs in which artists are not appropriately compensated, or activities that are primarily religious.

Application and Deadline

Applications for Arts Partnership Program must be [submitted online](#) no later than 5 p.m. on May 3, 2017.

Criteria for Selection

Eligible applications are reviewed by a panel of arts professionals. Panelists may come from outside Vermont. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. Applications will be evaluated in three general areas.

- **high-quality arts experiences (30%)**
demonstrated through media samples, artist information, and program schedules
- **impact and evaluation (30%)**
demonstrated through explanations of intended program impact, evaluation of impact, and track record of continual improvement of programming to meet goals and community need
- **sustainability and organizational management (40%)**
demonstrated through financial statements, explanations of leadership and management styles and systems, and descriptions of partnerships with arts, non-arts, schools, civic organizations, and/or businesses

Accessibility Requirements

At the end of the third and final year, partners will be required to report on advancements made over the three-year period in the priority areas of their Accessibility Implementation Plan, as well as submit the next top three organizational priorities from their Accessibility Implementation Plan for the future.

Access Compliance 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, and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design along with 2010 ADA Title III regulations for nondiscrimination.

Questions?

Inquiries about the Technical Assistance Grant program can be made by sending an email to [Sarah Mutrux](#), or by calling 802.828.5425.

Inquiries about using the online application system can be made by sending an email to [Meredith Bell](#) or by calling 802.828.3292.