Cultural Facilities Grant Application | FY2024 Notes and Terms

Cultural Activities
Cultural activities are defined broadly as activities that enhance artistic, creative, aesthetic, historic or scholarly appreciation by members of the public. This includes, but is not limited to, performances, exhibits, readings, film screenings, displays, workshops etc.

Multipurpose Facilities
Eligible applicants with multi-purpose facilities, such as libraries, town halls, and churches, will compete more successfully in the review process if they are able to demonstrate a significant commitment to cultural activities that are open to the public. For example, a local church is used regularly for non-religious activities by a local community theater group for rehearsals and a local choral group for performances. If a facility is not currently being used for cultural activities, an organization’s vision and plan for the use of the space should be addressed in the project narrative. Evidence of the demand and/or need for the space should be included by submitting letters of support from cultural organizations or artists.

Historic Facilities
Historic preservation standards and guidelines do not preclude code or accessibility improvements but do require they be done in a manner that minimizes loss of the building’s historic character. If your project is for restoration work, including major structural repairs to an historic building, it may be more appropriate to apply to the Historic Preservation Grants Program. Contact Caitlin Corkins, grants coordinator at the Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Floor 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-1201 at 802.828.3047 if you have questions.

Private Buildings
Facilities that are privately owned are not eligible for funding. On a case-by-case basis, nonprofit organizations that operate from a privately owned facility that can demonstrate a long-term lease (minimum 15 years) with the property owner and provide ongoing cultural activities to the public may be considered for funding. Applicants in these circumstances should have a conversation with Arts Council staff prior to applying.

Multiple Improvements to a Facility
Applicants are encouraged to focus their proposals on a specific improvement to the facility (e.g., a new heating system or elevator) with a corresponding budget that reflects that specific project. Generally, proposals that include a shopping list of items without an overall focus or connection to one another do not compete well in the review process.
**New Construction**
New construction may be considered if it is the only option for making access improvements to an historic building. Only the expenses directly related to the accessible component of the project can be considered as part of the grant request.

**Fixed Equipment**
Generally, “fixed equipment” refers to items such as theatrical lighting and/or sound systems, multimedia equipment, and assistive listening systems that are permanently affixed to the building. Equipment may include portable elements, such as microphones for a sound system, or transmitters/receivers as part of an assistive listening system but the organization must have a plan and policy in place for securing the equipment for use only within the building and not subject to transfer outside of the facility. The equipment may not be for personal office or administrative spaces.

**Permanent display cases and furniture**
Display cases for the exhibit of art, artifacts or other collections may be considered if they are affixed to the building and custom built for the facility. Portable shelving, display cases, gallery walls, vitrines, chairs, tables, desks, appliances etc. would be considered furniture and are not eligible for this program.