ARTS ACCESS

General Operating Support for Small Organizations

The Arts Access program supports ongoing arts and cultural activities in all genres that broaden opportunities for the general public to participate in the arts. This flexible two-year funding supports Ohio arts providers as they make artistic experiences available to their communities, positioning Ohio as a vibrant place to live, learn, work, and visit.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
March 1 of odd-numbered years only (e.g., 2015, 2017, 2019)

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VIEW REGIONAL MAP

GRANT AWARDS: Applicants may request between $1,000 and $5,000. All awards require a 1:1 cash match.

ELIGIBILITY: All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent, but need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Additional eligibility requirements for Arts Access include:

1. Applicants **must have received at least two OAC grants in the last four OAC fiscal years.** This support must have come from an OAC funding program that evaluated and scored the application through a public panel process.
2. Applicants' last fiscal year income **must be less than $50,000.** Non-arts organizations – including college and university departments – consider an arts programming budget only, not an overall organizational budget.
3. Applicants may be: 1) arts and cultural organizations in any arts discipline (literature, performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, etc.); 2) other organizations providing arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.); or 3) educational organizations (colleges, universities, etc.) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting.
4. Organizations must not receive operating support from the Ohio legislature through a line item or earmark in the state budget during the same fiscal year in which the organization receives OAC operating support.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Arts Access grants are two-year awards for organizational operating support. Funds may be used for a wide variety of expenses in the general operation of an organization. Many grantees use Arts Access funds to support artistic or administrative expenses. Other allowable expenses include marketing, program planning, education, and evaluation. The budget section of the Arts Access application provides a full list of allowable expense areas. Please refer to the Introduction and Overview for a list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

HOW TO APPLY: Arts Access program applications must be submitted via the ARTIE system. Please refer to ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications for a description of the process.

OFF-YEAR UPDATE DEADLINE: March 1 of even-numbered years only (e.g., 2018, 2020)
Arts Access grants are two years in duration, meaning that there is no application review prior to the second year of the award. However, applicants must still submit a brief summary of upcoming programming and updated budget information for the second year of their grant by the off-year deadline.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score Arts Access grant applications. Panel meetings are open to the public and audio-

streamed online, and representatives of applying organizations are encouraged to attend or listen online. Visit the calendar on the OAC's Grants page for meeting details and instructions for participating.

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist enters a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are divided into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Criteria evidence may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Program Quality (10 points)
- ☐ Activities of artistic, educational, and/or cultural value are offered
- ☐ Artistic and/or educational leaders are qualified to carry out work as described

Community Engagement (20 points)
- ☐ Efforts to engage participants are thoughtful
- ☐ Organization works to attract a diverse range of participants, including people with disabilities
- ☐ Activities are promoted using up-to-date tools and an understanding of targeted communities
- ☐ Engagement with the broader community is evident

Defining and Measuring Success (20 points)
- ☐ Programming is thoughtfully planned
- ☐ Planning processes involve a wide range of voices
- ☐ Successful outcomes for the project are clearly defined
- ☐ Documenting activities will help organization know to what degree success was achieved

Resource Management (10 points)
- ☐ Appropriate financial and other resources have been sought out to support project
- ☐ Sound administrative practices are led by qualified personnel

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the Arts Access grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

YEAR	DATE	AWARD YEAR	TASK/DEADLINE
2016	November 1	First Year	Application Available in ARTIE
2017	March 1	First Year	Application Deadline
	April	First Year	Panel Meeting
	July	First Year	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	First Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2018	January 1	Second Year	Off-year Update Available in ARTIE
	March 1	Second Year	Off-year Update Deadline
	July	Second Year	Off-year Grant Award Announcement
	July 30	First Year	Final Report Deadline
	August 30	Second Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2019	July 30	Second Year	Final Report Deadline