

SUSTAINABILITY



General Operating Support for Large and Mid-Sized Organizations

The Sustainability program supports ongoing arts and cultural activities in all genres. Awards support the largest and most administratively sophisticated organizations in the state's arts and cultural ecosystem. This flexible and reliable funding supports a wide range of the state's arts providers as they make high-quality artistic experiences available to residents and visitors, positioning Ohio as a national leader in creativity, artistry, and cultural wealth.

GRANT AWARDS: Grants vary in size and are determined by a formula that takes into account panel evaluation of each application and the applying organization's operating income. All awards require a 1:1 cash match.

NOTE: College and university applicants must demonstrate broad financial support including a non-university-based cash match.

ELIGIBILITY: All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent. Additional eligibility requirements for Sustainability 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 greater than \$50,000.** For non-arts organizations – including college and university departments – the arts programming budget only, not an overall organizational budget, should be considered.
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 operating support from the OAC.
5. Organizations must maintain an up-to-date profile in [DataArts](#), a statewide initiative focused on gathering and analyzing financial and participation information from arts organizations across Ohio. A current profile **must include** a minimum of the two most recently completed fiscal years of data.

Large organizations (those with annual income greater than \$1.75 million, excluding OAC funds) must meet additional eligibility requirements:

1. Applicants must be incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in Ohio.
2. Applicants' primary mission must be the presentation or production of the arts.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 1 for every fourth year only
(next deadline 2019)

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[VIEW REGIONAL MAP](#)

3. Applicants must have been in existence and presenting regular, annual programming for at least five years since the start date of the grant period for which they are seeking funding.
4. Applicants must have a permanent, paid, professional staff administering both the business and artistic functions of its work.
5. Applicants (except local arts councils and centers) must use a majority of artists who meet the definition of a professional artist – a person who devotes a major portion of his or her time to practicing, performing, or teaching the arts.
6. Applicants may not be national service organizations, divisions, or departments of larger governmental entities (e.g., divisions of parks and recreation), nor receive operating funds from other state agencies.
7. Large organization applicants that are college/university-based must:
 - a. derive at least 51 percent of their income from outside the college/university;
 - b. manage their own budgets;
 - c. have an annual, independent audit;
 - d. maintain their own board, independent of the college/university board of trustees;
 - e. have an arts-based mission; and
 - f. not present work exclusively by or for students.

INCOME DETERMINATION: OAC staff determines whether an organization will be reviewed as a "large" or "mid-sized" organization, which affects its funding level. An organization's most recently completed fiscal year's income (DataArts field "Total Unrestricted Revenue Less In-Kind," from your Funder Report, subject to OAC staff review) is used to determine its size for eligibility purposes. Large organizations – those with annual income greater than \$1.75 million – must present a certified, audited statement in order to be reviewed. Restricted funds, such as endowments or capital improvements, will not be considered allowable operating revenue. In-kind donations will also not be included. Donated works of art may not be included as acquisition income. Any state funds in a college/university-based arts organization's budget will be deducted from its operating income for the purposes of calculating a grant award. In the event that an organization is – based on past financial documents – initially deemed most appropriate for panel review as a large organization, but prior to an award determination is found to be more appropriate for funding as a mid-size organization, OAC staff reserves the authority to re-calculate its grant in this manner (and vice versa). For the purposes of grant calculations, organizations are classified as either large or mid-sized for the duration of each four-year Sustainability grant.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Sustainability grants are four-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 Sustainability funds to support general artistic or administrative expenses, and other allowable expenses include marketing, program planning, education, and evaluation.

Activities that Sustainability funds cannot be used for include:

1. Projects or scholarship assistance that result in academic credit;
2. Any programs of public and private schools – including school districts, affiliates, colleges, and universities – not designed to involve the general public; and
3. The salaries, travel, or overhead of public and private school, college, university, and government agency staff, faculty, and operations.

Please refer to the [Introduction and Overview](#) for a full list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

HOW TO APPLY: All Sustainability program applications must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

OFF-YEAR UPDATES DEADLINE: April 1 (2016, 2017, and 2018)

Sustainability grants are four years in duration, meaning that there is no panel review prior to the second, third, and fourth years of the award. However, applicants must submit a summary of upcoming programming, as well as updated financial information including a CDP funder report, prior to these "off-year" awards. Large organizations (those with budgets greater than \$1.75 million) are required to submit additional financial materials in support of these updates including a certified independent audit, independent auditor's letter, and Financial Form M; the ARTIE system provides details.

Grantees should notify the OAC of any major organizational changes (e.g., change of mission, new location, mergers and acquisitions, etc.) that take place during the grant period. Grantees may be asked to submit a revised summary, including a revised budget breakout, detailing the effect of these changes on their ongoing award management.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score Sustainability grant applications. Meetings are organized by regional geography and applicant size. (Mid-sized organizations reviewed together, and large organizations reviewed together.) Panelists who review large organizations' applications generally come from outside Ohio to ensure an unbiased review. Panel meetings are open to the public and audio-streamed online. 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 recommendations. 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. Evidence of meeting the criteria 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 (15 points)

- Innovative activities of high artistic, educational, and/or cultural value are offered to communities
- Artistic and educational programming evolves creatively to maintain relevance and vitality over time
- Artistic and/or educational leaders and providers are highly qualified and reliable

Community Engagement (15 points)

- Efforts to engage participants are intentional and energetic, as well as inclusive of people with disabilities
- Activities are promoted effectively using up-to-date tools and a demonstrated understanding of targeted communities
- Engagement with the broader community is strategic and contributes to the creative economy

Defining and Measuring Success (15 points)

- Planning efforts are deliberate and strategic, with processes that involve a broad range of voices
- Success is clearly defined, measurable, and meaningful
- Relevant measurement and thorough documentation of program impact on the community is carried out

Resource Management (15 points)

- Plans for long-term financial sustainability and stewardship of public funds are thoughtful, rational, and well-explained
- Sound administrative practices are led by qualified personnel
- Budget for proposed activities is realistic, aligned with proposal narrative, and supported by an appropriate range of earned and contributed income

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the four-year Sustainability 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
2014	November 1	First Year	Application Available
2015	February 1	First Year	Application Deadline
	March	First Year	Panel Meeting
	July	First Year	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	First Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2016	January 1	Second Year	Off-year Update Available in ARTIE
	April 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
2017	January 1	--Third Year	Off-year Update Available in ARTIE
	April 1	--Third Year	Off-year Update Deadline
	July	--Third Year	Off-year Grant Award Announcement
	July 30	Second Year	Final Report Deadline
	August 30	--Third Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2018	January 1	--Fourth Year	Off-year Update Available in ARTIE
	April 1	--Fourth Year	Off-year Update Deadline
	July	--Fourth Year	Off-year Grant Award Announcement
	July 30	--Third Year	Final Report Deadline
	August 30	--Fourth Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2019	July 30	--Fourth Year	Final Report Deadline