

ArtsRISE

Expanding Access and Inclusion of Historically Underrepresented Populations

The Ohio Arts Council strives to support the arts in all communities and is dedicated to investing in historically underrepresented populations and groups. ArtsRISE is designed to support organizations working to expand access to their activities to more diverse participants, address equity and inclusion in program design, present arts programming of culturally specific* or ethnic organizations, and support meaningful engagement with other constituent groups including (but not limited to) the BIPOC community, people with disabilities, older adults, Appalachian and rural communities, lower income communities, LGBTQ+ communities, veterans, and justice-impacted citizens.

Awards may support: 1) organizations whose staff and board represent these specific communities; and/or 2) organizations' efforts to improve their accessibility, inclusivity, equity, and diversity with these identified populations.

*The National Standard for Arts Information Exchange Project (NISP) defines culturally specific populations as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; Ohio has traditionally included the addition of Appalachian to this definition.

GRANT AWARDS: Applicant may request up to \$5,000. Match requirements vary according to applying organizations' annual arts programming budget (or overall budget, in the case of arts organizations) for their most recently completed fiscal year:

Annual Arts Budget	Match Requirement
Less than \$100,000	None
More than \$100,000	1:1 cash

ArtsRISE grantees can anticipate receiving their full request.

ELIGIBILITY: All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent but need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Additionally, applying organizations must be either:

1. representative of the population they serve, with at least 50 percent of staff and board combined made up of individuals from an historically underrepresented population, and/or
2. advancing accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusivity with an historically underrepresented population.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications reviewed and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until November 30, 2023 or 2024 or until funds are exhausted; applications must be submitted at least 90 days prior to all planned activities.

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▶ [View regional map](#)

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 that provide arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.); or 3) educational organizations (public, private, charter, and parochial schools from pre-kindergarten through university level) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting.

Historically underrepresented populations are comprised of groups whose representation has been disproportionately low relative to their numbers in the general populations. Examples may include, but are not limited to, the BIPOC community, people with disabilities, older adults, Appalachian and rural communities, lower income communities, LGBTQ+ communities, veterans, and justice-impacted citizens.

ArtsRISE awards may not be used to fund activities described in and already being supported through another OAC grant. Operating support grantees may not request funding to support established programming. No organization may receive more than two ArtsRISE grants in any three fiscal year period.

Organizations receiving support as a Sustainability-Large organization or Statewide Arts Service Organization are ineligible to apply.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: ArtsRISE grants are awards for activities representative of a historically underrepresented community and/or organizations' efforts focused on equity, inclusion, access, and diversity in partnership with historically underrepresented populations. Projects designed to advance equity and inclusion should have a deep and lasting impact on the organization's practices that extend beyond the funded grant period.

Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, with applications reviewed bimonthly. Activities should occur no earlier than 90 days after the date your application is submitted. Grants will be made until funds are exhausted, or until November 30, whichever comes first.

Eligible activities will vary greatly according to the organization applying, population being served, and project goals. Sample activities could include:

- developing a creative writing program with justice-impacted citizens
- curating an exhibition featuring the work of LGBTQ+ photographers
- launching staff cultural equity training designed to eliminate racial bias
- creating an Accessibility Plan and forming an access committee to be more inclusive of people with disabilities
- presenting a concert series focused on the music of BIPOC composers
- featuring Mexican cultural traditions led by a mentor artist at a summer camp for high school students from lower income communities
- initiating a new partnership with a local Board of Development Disabilities to provide art classes with people with disabilities

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score ArtsRISE grant applications. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Written summaries of panel comments will be made available to applicants. Score averages are used to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve recommendations. The 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 (15 points)

- Project organizers, artists, and/or educators are qualified to carry out activities
- Activities of artistic, educational, and/or cultural value will be offered
- Project will enhance the accessibility, equity, diversity, and/or inclusion of a [historically underrepresented population\(s\)](#) in arts experiences

Community Engagement (15 points)

- Methods used to engage participants are appropriate and effective
- Intentional efforts will be made to engage with an historically underrepresented population(s)
- Historically underrepresented population(s) will benefit from the proposed activities

Defining and Measuring Success (15 points)

- Planning is inclusive of a diverse range of perspectives including members of the population(s) being served
- Work is guided by careful planning in line with the applicant’s size and capacity
- Project goals are defined, and plans are in place to determine how successful they were

Resource Management (15 points)

- Organizational leadership is appropriately skilled
- Project income and/or in-kind donations will come from a mix of sources
- Planned spending is realistic and aligned to proposal narrative

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

Applications Submitted	Grant Award Notification	Activities could take place as early as
April - May	Late June	July 1
June - July	Late August	September 1
August - September	Late October	November 1
October - November 30	Late December	January 1

Task/Deadline	FY 2024 Applications	FY 2025 Applications
Application Available in ARTIE	March 2023	March 2024
Application Deadline at 5 p.m.	See chart above, 2023	See chart above, 2024
Grant Award Announcement	See chart above, 2023	See chart above, 2024
Grant Agreement Deadline	1 month after grant notification	1 month after grant notification
Final Report Deadline	July 30, 2024	July 30, 2025