

# Statewide Arts Service Organizations

In place of competitive operating and project support funding, qualifying organizations that provide statewide professional services to arts and cultural organizations are supported via a parallel process that honors their unique and valuable contributions to Ohio's arts sector.

**GRANT AWARDS:** Statewide Arts Service Organization (SASO) grants are determined by a formula that takes into account panel evaluation of each application, the applying organization's operating income, and other factors (see Eligibility). All awards require a 1:1 cash match.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent. Additional eligibility requirements include:

- 1. Applicants must provide technical assistance, professional development, and resources that primarily serve Ohio's arts, arts education, and/or cultural communities.** Organizations with a mission of primarily providing arts programming as opposed to serving other providers in the arts community do not qualify.
- 2. Applicants must maintain a statewide presence** as demonstrated by both a geographically diverse board and service provision throughout the state.
- 3. Applicants must serve a defined membership or constituency** that includes organizations as well as individuals. Organizations acting as shared-interest affinity groups do not qualify.
- 4. Applicants must maintain a dedicated, paid staff** administering core business functions.
- 5. Applicants must consider constituents needs in designing services,** including having both a demonstrated method of determining constituents' needs and an evaluation process to gauge the effectiveness of services designed to address them.

**NOTE:** recipients of SASO grant awards are not eligible to apply for or receive other competitive OAC awards during their SASO grant periods (including Sustainability, Arts Access, ArtSTART, ArtsNEXT, Building Cultural Diversity, Arts Partnership, and Artists with Disabilities Access Program).

**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:** SASO grants are four-year awards for statewide arts service organization operating support. Funds may be used for a wide variety of expenses in the general operation of a statewide service organization. Many grantees use SASO funds to support administrative expenses, and other allowable expenses include member services, program planning, education, and evaluation.

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

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 1 for every fourth year only  
(next deadline 2023)

## STAFF CONTACTS

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[VIEW REGIONAL MAP](#)

SASO grantees also work in partnership with the OAC in a variety of ways throughout the year that both highlight their unique roles within Ohio's arts and cultural sector, as well as support the mission and work of the Ohio Arts Council. To satisfy the terms of their awards, each grantee collaborates with the OAC to complete **at least three** of the partnership activities from the list below each fiscal year:

1. **Provide professional development:** develop and present at least one in-person or online professional development session during an OAC event or webinar series (the focus of which should be determined jointly with OAC staff).
2. **Nominate panelists:** ensure experts representing their constituency are present on upcoming OAC grant review panels by submitting panelist nominations for at least three to five panelists per year.
3. **Facilitate field visits:** connect relevant OAC staff members with interested host organizations, artists, arts educators, or other people or destinations throughout Ohio representing their constituent group for at least one OAC site visit per year (SASO representatives are encouraged to attend as well).
4. **Highlight success stories:** help publicize and highlight the great work being done by members of their constituent group by sharing standout success stories with OAC communications staff, ideally at least once per quarter, for wider dissemination and exposure.
5. **Lead collaborative initiatives:** contribute to one-time-only or ongoing OAC initiatives by serving as the lead partner in project design, service provision, communications and marketing, and documentation and evaluation.

**HOW TO APPLY:** All SASO program applications must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system; only qualifying statewide arts service organizations will be invited to apply prior to the start of each four-year cycle. Please refer to [ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

**OFF-YEAR UPDATES DEADLINE:** April 1 (2020, 2021, 2022)

SASO 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, grantees must submit a summary of upcoming programming, as well as updated financial information (consisting of either a completed DataArts funding report or a certified financial audit from their most recently completed fiscal year), prior to these "off-year" awards. Grantees should notify the OAC of any major organizational changes (e.g., change of mission, new location, mergers and acquisitions, change of executive leadership, 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 OAC staff experts, together with arts and cultural professionals, evaluate and score SASO grant applications and make funding recommendations to the OAC board. The Board is the only body authorized to make awards on behalf of the agency.

- A clear description of activities to be provided during the grant period is provided
- Proposed activities will be of significant professional value to an identified segment of Ohio's arts and cultural community and the organizations and individuals within it
- Efforts to engage constituents are intentional, inclusive, and statewide in reach
- Planning efforts are deliberate and strategic, with processes that involve a broad range of voices
- Sound administrative practices are led by qualified personnel
- Budget for proposed activities is realistic and supported by an appropriate range of earned and unearned income

**TIMELINE:** The following timeline outlines the four-year SASO 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
2018	November 1	First Year	Application Available
2019	February 1	First Year	Application Deadline
	July	First Year	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	First Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2020	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
2021	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
2022	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
2023	July 30	--Fourth Year	Final Report Deadline