North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots Arts Program Subgranting Guidelines

Eligibility

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) status is preferred, but organizations that are nonprofit in nature, or in some cases individuals, are eligible to receive subgrants. Grassroots partners may require applicants without 501(c)(3) status to have a fiscal agent to receive the funds on their behalf.
- All organizations must reside and carry out projects within the county in which they are applying.
- Projects must take place between July 1 and June 30 of the current fiscal year.
- Only complete applications received by the due date will be considered.
- Subgrants may not be awarded to arts organizations that already receive operating support directly from the N.C. Arts Council.

What the grant will fund

- Program expenses for arts projects including artist fees and travel, space rental, marketing, advertising, costumes, sets, props, and equipment rental.
- Limited operating expenses for arts organizations only.

Examples of arts programs that are commonly supported with Grassroots funds are:

- Performances
- Festivals
- Art exhibitions
- Arts camps and after-school programs
- Artist residencies for K-12 schools
- Artist fees for classes and workshops
- Marketing expenses for art walks and studio tours
- Royalties, props, sets, and costumes for theater performances
- Equipment rental for arts programming
- Space rental for arts programming

What the grant will not fund

- Competitions, scholarships, tuition, financial awards, or prizes
- Art, music, and dance therapists*
- Fundraising events
- Purchase of artwork
- Food or beverages for hospitality or entertainment functions
- Internal school programs such as band activities or equipment or choral activities
- Oral history and history projects**
- Interest on loans, fines, or litigation costs

** Art, music and dance therapists conducting a therapeutic program cannot be funded. However, qualified artists conducting an arts program in a health care setting may be supported with Grassroots funds.*

***Oral history and history projects are not eligible for Grassroots funds. However, folklife documentation of traditional arts, including the creation of interviews, photography, videography, and other documentary media, is eligible for support through the Grassroots Arts Program.*

Additional funding policies

1. Tribal organizations that receive Grassroots funds must represent state or federally recognized tribes. North Carolina's state-recognized tribes are Coharie Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, Lumbee Tribe, Meherrin Tribe, Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation, Sappony Tribe, and the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. An approved list of tribes can be found at www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/american-indian-affairs/nc-tribes.
2. Colleges, universities, and libraries may receive grants for arts programs that are community- based or generate regional arts involvement. Grants may not support their internal programs, administration, or operating expenses (e.g., library books, band activities, equipment purchases).
3. Religious organizations or churches may not receive Grassroots funds unless the programs are presented outside regular church services, engage the larger community, and do not contain religious content.

4. Grassroots funds may not be used for activities associated with a school's internal arts programs, such as in-school student performances, the purchase of art supplies, or student arts competitions and publications.
5. Grassroots funds may be used for student transportation to regional arts exhibits and programs on a limited basis. Prior approval from the Arts in Communities director is required, and documentation of the expense must be included in the organization's final report.
6. Municipalities (city/county government) and community organizations may receive grants for arts programs that use qualified artists to conduct programs that involve the greater community. Grants may not support internal programs, administration, or operating expenses.
7. Because the N.C. Symphony is a state agency and receives state funds, including funds specifically for its touring and education programs, no Grassroots funds may be granted to the N.C. Symphony or the N.C. Symphony Foundation or to pay for performances or education programs of the N.C. Symphony.

Priorities for funding

1. Applications that support arts organizations, such as theaters, symphonies, galleries, art guilds, choral societies, dance companies, folk arts societies, writer's groups, and arts festivals.
2. Applications that support arts learning and arts-in-education programs or projects conducted by qualified artists. These can be artist residencies in schools, after-school programs, summer camps, or adult arts learning classes.
3. Applicants that support community and civic organizations to provide arts experiences and programming that serves the greater community. These programs must be conducted by qualified artists.

Criteria for evaluation

A local panel of volunteers will adjudicate the Grassroots Applications based on the following criteria:

- Artistic quality of the proposed project
- Community impact of project or program
- Ability to plan and implement project

Subgrant Award Requirements

Matching funds

Grassroots subgrants must be matched dollar for dollar with cash from local sources during the applicable fiscal year. Grassroots partners are required to have all matching funds documented as part of the final report for the grant at the end of the fiscal year. Grassroots grants cannot be matched by other N.C. Arts Council funding.

North Carolina Arts Council logo usage

All subgrant recipients are required to prominently display the North Carolina Arts Council logo with tagline and credit lines on-site at funded events and in all digital and printed publicity materials including websites, electronic newsletters, and in as many materials and places as possible. To access the N.C. Arts Council logo and branding materials, visit https://www.ncarts.org/grants- resources/resources/logo-branding-materials

Reporting requirements

Subgrant awardees must complete a final report to document the use of the funds, share participant statistics, provide verification of matching funds and demonstrate examples of the use of the N.C. Arts Council's logo and credit line.