



Community Arts Experience Grants FY2026 Grant Program Guidelines

Application Deadline: 60 days before your project begins

The arts are essential to community vitality—boosting state and local economies, enriching quality of life, attracting creative workforce, preserving cultural heritage, and more. To ensure thriving communities across Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Arts Council awards project funding through Community Arts Experience Grants to support festivals, exhibitions, performances, and other audience-based programs.

Program Objectives

- Expand arts and cultural opportunities for Oklahomans
- Support arts-focused programs that enliven communities through a wide range of engagement opportunities for all people
- Provide matching funds for arts-focused projects

This grant program supports the following focus areas of Oklahoma Arts Council's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan:

- Invest in Oklahoma's Arts and Cultural Assets (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)
- Elevate Artistry and Catalyze Creative Community Development (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)
- Promote and Equip Oklahoma Artists and Programs (Goal 1: Cultivate and Support the Arts in Oklahoma)

Overview

Project Activity Dates: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 (Grant Period FY2026)

Grant Amount: Up to two \$5,000 grants per fiscal year. Organizations may apply for two Community Arts Experience Grants, or they may apply for one Community Arts Experience Grant and one Community Arts Learning Grant. Match requirement: 1:1 (100%). Half of the match (50%) may be in-kind support. Matching funds may not be federal funds or other Oklahoma Arts Council funds. Award amounts are determined using the grant program scoring criteria and agency priorities.

Application Deadline: 60 days before your project begins

Who Can Apply?

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations incorporated in the State of Oklahoma as a Domestic Not for Profit Corporation
 - In good standing with the IRS (Organizations that have had their IRS status revoked are not eligible for Oklahoma Arts Council grant support. It is an organization's responsibility to ensure that their status is current at the time of the application and throughout the life of their award.)

- In good standing with the State of Oklahoma
- Registered with a SAM UEI number and eligible to receive federal support (Organizations cannot be listed under the SAM Exclusions federal debarred or suspended list.)
- City, county, and tribal governments
- Colleges and universities
- Public libraries

What Types of Projects Can Be Supported?

Arts-focused community and audience-based programs, including but not limited to:

- Performing arts events such as concerts, recitals, etc.
- Visual art exhibitions
- Multi-disciplinary events such as festivals

If your project is focused on providing arts learning and skill building opportunities, please see the Community Arts Learning Grant program.

What Expenses Are Allowable?

Funding from the grant program can be used to reimburse the following expenses:

- Artistic fees for contracted artists
- Administrative fees to support the programming or administration of the project such as payment to a coordinator or grant writer
- Technical fees to support the implementation of the project such as professional event services
- Artist travel expenses such as mileage, rental, airfare, rideshare, etc.
- Consumable supplies directly related to the project
- Marketing expenses to promote access to the project
- Rental fees such as rental of facilities, equipment, etc.
- Other Expenses such as printed programs, temporary signage, licensing and/or royalty fees, etc.

Unallowable expenses include tickets, tuition, scholarships, capital expenditures and/or building improvements, permanent art installations, activities for which college credit is given, loss of revenue, debt repayment, subgranting, duties or expenses related to fundraising and/or lobbying, activities or expenses that may advance or inhibit any religious belief, events that are not open to the public, cash prizes or awards, and hospitality expenses (i.e., food, drink, receptions, parties, galas)

How to Apply

Step 1: Your organization must be verified in the Oklahoma Arts Council grant portal before applying for this grant opportunity. If your organization is new to Oklahoma Arts Council grants, you must create a new account in the Fluxx grant portal and complete the eligibility verification process (which may take up to 15 days to review and process). If you have questions, contact our grants office at grants@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2040.

Step 2: Once your organization is verified, you can start an application from the Apply for Funding page. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on the application deadline date published on the grant program guidelines. If an application deadline falls on a weekend or state holiday, the application will be due by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Late submissions are subject to the noncompliance policies as outlined in the General Grant Terms and Conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What types of artistic disciplines can be supported?

A. The Oklahoma Arts Council uses artistic quality as one of its review criteria for grants. Artistic disciplines include, but are not limited to, music, theatre, dance, literary arts, media arts, and visual arts. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact one of our team members (contact information listed below).

Q. Can these grant funds support a memorial sculpture, mural, or other permanent artwork?

A. Unfortunately, no. Oklahoma Arts Council's grants for organizations cannot be used to support capital improvements/expenses including the creation of new permanent artwork or the improvement of buildings/properties.

Q. My organization is already receiving funding through Oklahoma Arts Council's other grant program(s). Can I apply for this opportunity?

A. Please contact one of our team members to see if your organization is eligible to apply for this grant opportunity. If your organization is selected to receive a grant, you will need to provide a 100% (1:1) match for the award. None of the match may come from another Oklahoma Arts Council grant award or federal grant award.

Q. Can we purchase a sound system, instruments, or electronic devices with this grant?

A. No, this grant cannot be used to purchase permanent equipment. However, this grant can be used to support equipment rental expenses.

Q. How do I find a performing artist for my project?

A. You can find artists on our Oklahoma Performing Artist Roster, however you are not required to use artists on this roster for your grant.

Q. How can I update my organization's Grant Administrator or Authorizing Official?

A. Contact the Grants Office at grants@arts.ok.gov.

Q. How do I find out if my organization has access to the grants portal to apply for a grant?

A. Contact Martyna Sandoval, Grants and Programs Associate, at martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov.

Grant Process

1. Request access to the grant portal
2. Submit an application
3. Application is reviewed by Oklahoma Arts Council
4. Award notification (if the project is selected for funding)
5. Authorizing Official accepts grant contract
6. Project activity occurs
7. Grant Administrator submits final report
8. Grant payment is processed

Grantee Requirements

If selected for funding, grantee organizations must comply with all requirements as outlined in the Legal Assurances/General Grant Terms, grant contract, and grant program guidelines, including but not limited to the following:

- Signed electronic grant contract by the deadline specified in the award notification email
- Updated contact, mailing, and payment/banking information with the Oklahoma Arts Council and Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) vendor office
- Thank you letters to your organization's legislators
- Use of Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts logos and acknowledgement of support
- Timely submission of a final report

Who to Contact for Help

For questions about this grant program, contact Miranda Gilbert, Director of Community Arts and Workforce Program, at miranda.gilbert@arts.ok.gov or 405-308-9270.

For questions about grant portal access, contact Martyna Sandoval, Grants and Programs Associate, at martyna.sandoval@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2040.

For questions about managing your grant award, contact Thomas Tran, Grants Director, at thomas.tran@arts.ok.gov or 405-521-2041.