



To advance and promote arts and culture in the Wichita community through advocacy, leadership, education and collaboration.

2008 Arts Council Project Grants

Frequently asked questions

Who may apply?

There are two basic types of candidates for Arts Council grants. The first is any arts organization with independent, corporate 501c3 non-profit status for at least three consecutive years prior to the date of application, working in any visual or performing arts media and living in Wichita or the surrounding area. Individual artists may also apply, and must provide the required financial documentation specified on the application form, or may opt to contract a tax-exempt organization to serve as a fiscal agent for the application. Agencies of government are not eligible for support. Organizations and individuals who are eligible to apply:

- Have a primary focus and actual operations that are artistic in nature.
- Operate with professional management and artistic staff.
- Provide cultural programming of the highest caliber.
- Demonstrate a wide-ranging impact on south-central Kansas.
- Produce annual audited financial statements.
- Present a well-established base of financial contributions and match total government grants with private-sector contributions.

What kinds of grant requests will be considered?

Arts Council grants are intended to be used for support for arts projects that are accessible to the general public in south-central Kansas. Projects that will be considered for funding support are:

- Public performances and exhibitions.
- The creation of new work.
- Special initiatives designed to significantly enhance an organization's earned income potential or position in a broader market.

The Arts Council defines projects as special, one-time activities with specific implementation dates, budgets, and objectives. Organizations and individuals may request funding for items such as personnel, outside fees and services, space rental, travel associated with the project, production expenses, and development and fundraising costs.

What kind of requests will not be considered?

Arts Council grant funds cannot be used for private arts functions or exhibits. In addition, Arts Council grants are not intended to fund:

- Gallery receptions or exhibit openings.
- Projects sponsored by churches or other institutions when the purpose or content of the project is to advance a religious ideology.
- Programming designed exclusively to benefit the students enrolled in public or private schools or universities, and is not available to the general public.
- Projects that are produced as benefits or fundraisers.
- Previously completed projects.
- Projects with a primary audience that is outside south-central Kansas.

The following organizations are not eligible to apply for Arts Council grants:

- Social service agencies
- Schools, colleges, or universities
- Libraries
- Units of government

How much money can I request?

The maximum grant amount available is \$1,000.

Are matching funds required?

Matching funds *of an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant request* are required, whether they come from the private sector, foundation or government grants, or the artist's or organization's project budget. A list of matching funds and sources must accompany your application.

How often can I apply for support?

Any individual or organization can apply for an Arts Council grant only once every annual grant period. An individual or organization can receive funding no more than twice every five years.

How does the committee decide which projects receive funding?

The Arts Council assigns highest funding priority to projects that show evidence of:

- High-caliber artistic quality within the chosen media of visual or performing arts as evidenced by artistic resources.
- Consistency in employing artists in as many phases of the project as possible.
- Accessibility to the citizens of south-central Kansas and the surrounding area.
- A history of community participation.
- Systematic planning.
- Realistic financial and creative goals.
- Potential for filling a cultural need in the community.
- Evidence of good fiscal management
 - Good financial management demonstrates an arts organization's commitment to long-term stability and health. It is recommended that an organization have in place a financial management plan – a part of a long-range plan – in order to set prioritized, targeted goals for unrestricted positive current liquidity, and a working capital reserve, which enables the organization to cover cyclical cash needs through internal borrowing.

In addition, the potential grantee must guarantee accessibility and non-discrimination:

- Applicants must give assurance that all grant-supported activities will be accessible to individuals with physical, sensory, emotional, and mental disabilities.
- Applicants must guarantee that they will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, physical ability, age or veteran status. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or termination; rates of pay or others forms of compensation, and selection for grading.

What is the annual grant period?

The grant cycle begins on August 1 and ends on June 1, the deadline for grant application submissions. Grant applications will be accepted at any time during that window.

When will I find out if I received funding?

The granting committee meets in late August. Notification letters will be sent out the first business day in September.