



OREGON ARTS
COMMISSION

Arts Build Communities Grant Guidelines

*For projects occurring between January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010
Deadline: October 1, 2009*

Oregon Arts Commission: Vision and Goals

The arts and culture are touchstones of community and civic life and it is essential to preserve, stabilize and develop their central role to benefit Oregonians and Oregon's quality of life. The Oregon Arts Commission believes:

- The arts help us discover who we are.
- The arts bring people together, strengthening communities.
- The arts are critical for our students.
- The arts add value to Oregon's economy.

The Commission's grants, programs and services work to ensure that:

1. Oregonians have wide access to the arts and their intrinsic and extrinsic benefits.
2. Oregon arts organizations have the skills and resources to offer high quality programs throughout the state.
3. Public and private support for arts and culture is increased and leveraged.
4. Oregonians have access to quality arts learning opportunities.
5. Oregon artists create work of acknowledged high quality.

Purpose

Arts Build Communities grants support the arts in local communities and the involvement of the arts and artists in community development. The grants recognize the expanding role that arts organizations play in the broader, cultural, social, educational and economic areas of community life. Support is provided to arts and other community-based organizations to form alliances and partnerships to strengthen communities through projects that connect the arts with local issues and opportunities.

Projects from communities that are underserved by arts services will receive priority for funding. Underserved communities include communities whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability.

Successful community arts projects connect with broader community development issues and goals. The most competitive Arts Build Communities grant projects illustrate the connection between artists, local arts resources, and community development.

Solid arts and community development projects reflect local partnerships, local impact, and careful project management. While projects may access resources outside the community, this program's emphasis is on building local capacity to strengthen the arts in a community. The ABC Grant program is broader than an arts project grant program. It is committed to fostering partnerships and strengthening the arts in communities across the state.

Projects must support the integration of the arts and artists with community goals and may include new initiatives, new program development, or the expansion of an existing arts and community development project.

This program will not support the construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities. However, pre-development, design fees and community planning activities are eligible for support.

Examples of Recent Successful Arts Build Communities Projects:

- The Oregon Shakespeare Festival deepened its connections to southern Oregon's growing Latino audience by establishing local community partnerships with La Clinica del Valle, Rogue Community College Latino Programs and others. The Festival added Spanish-captioned performances, bilingual services, focus groups and community events.
- Miracle Theatre Group expanded "Art of Science," Teatro Milagro's bilingual residency program with an environmental focus, to southern and central Oregon. Through a new partnership with Crook County Schools, the program reached 4,500 participants.
- Cart'M Recycling in Manzanita developed education and outreach workshops on the creative use of materials diverted from waste, utilizing improved partnerships with State Parks, local schools and the Neah-Kah-Nie School District.
- The Museum at Warm Springs presented workshops and exhibits on traditional Native American horse regalia. The project celebrated, shared and helped preserve traditions with members of the Warm Springs Tribe and over 15,000 visitors to the museum.
- The City of Hillsboro retained consultants to train members of the ArtBank cooperative, a venue offering affordable studio space, a gallery and classrooms. The activities were part of the Hillsboro Downtown Renaissance project.
- Oregon Institute of Technology's *Voices: A Legacy of Hopefulness, a Portrait Project* helped students interview tribal elders and produce oral histories using a variety of media. The project was a partnership with Nixyaawii Community School, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and Crow's Shadow Institute of the Arts.
- Neighborhood Pride Team, a community development corporation in outer southeast Portland, dba Trillium Artisans, trained low-income women in art making and marketing; the women artisans then went on to facilitate trainings in their neighborhoods.
- Salem Art Association developed "Project Space II," a contemporary art space in downtown Salem to offer juried, rotating exhibitions by regional artists. It provides public access to contemporary art through a partnership between SAA, local artists, and area students.

Eligibility

Projects from communities that are underserved by arts services will receive priority for funding. Underserved communities include communities whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. **Priority will be given to projects that have not previously received funding.**

Applicants to the Arts Build Communities grant category must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- have IRS 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status; or
- be a unit of local government (including libraries, schools and Tribal governments);
- a 501(c)(3) non-profit must have corporate, non-profit status in the state of Oregon;
- demonstrate a history of effective management practices;
- have submitted all Oregon Arts Commission final reports for any previous grants awarded.

Limitations

Arts Build Communities Grants will not fund:

- Capital construction;
- Tuition assistance or scholarships for college, university, or other formal courses of study;
- Projects that have already been completed;
- Grants to offset previous project deficits; or
- Events whose primary focus is to raise funds for a non-arts purpose.

Review Criteria:

The following criteria will be used to evaluate Arts Build Communities Grants:

Project Excellence (20 points)

How the project involves both community process (the interaction of people) and product (meeting project outcomes.) What process is in place to develop community relationships to connect the arts with other areas of community life? Knowledge and experience of project artists.

Partners and Collaborators (15 points)

Project partners and collaborators and their involvement in the project. How the project was planned and how artists, partners, and others were involved in that planning.

Project Outcomes (30 points)

How the project will strengthen the arts and strengthen the community through the arts. How communities and populations will be served through the project, and how the project will address critical issues and opportunities within the community.

Organizational Capacity (15 points)

The mission and purpose of the applicant organization and how the project proposes to advance the mission. The management and fiscal capacity of the organization to manage the project to successful completion. A budget that is accurate and clear.

Access (10 points)

How the project proposes to involve participation of persons across areas of ethnic background, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. If the project serves a special population (such as residents of a housing authority), how will all people within that group be ensured access to the project?

Evaluation (10 points)

How the success and impact of the project process and outcomes are measured.

Grant Awards

Arts Build Communities grants will generally range from \$3,000 to \$ 7,000. The Arts Commission has limited resources, and not all eligible applicants will receive funding.

Matching Requirements

Arts Build Communities grants must be matched at least dollar-for-dollar with earned, contributed or in-kind support. The most competitive projects demonstrate some cash match committed by other funders.

Deadline

Completed applications **must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2009 or hand-delivered to the Arts Commission office by 5 p.m., October 1, 2009.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Access Compliance

Any entity that provides services to the public must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Arts organizations specifically must be familiar with section 504. The Arts Commission provides assistance to Oregon arts groups on issues of access. Contact Shannon Planchon, Assistant Director, (503) 229-6062 or shannon.planchon@state.or.us. TDD Assistance is available at (800) 735-2900.

Assistance

Assistance from the Arts Commission staff is available to applicants prior to the application deadline. Contact Brian Wagner, Community Arts Coordinator, Oregon Arts Commission at (503) 986-0083 or brian.wagner@state.or.us with questions.

Application Review Process

Arts Commission staff reviews submitted applications for eligibility, completeness, and budget accuracy. A panel of arts professionals reviews each eligible application in an open meeting process.

Panel meetings are open to the public and all applicants will receive advance notice of the meeting time and place. The panels review and rate each application. Scores are provided to the full Commission, which will consider the panel ranking as well as the geographic and programmatic services provided when making its grant awards. Applicants are notified of the Commission's decision by mail following the Commission meeting.

Final Reports

The Arts Commission documents the impact of the arts in Oregon. Arts organizations receiving grants must complete a final narrative and budget report. Final financial reports must reflect the application budget as submitted or revised to the Arts Commission. Grant reports must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the completion of the grant period. All grantees are subject to periodic monitoring by the Oregon Arts Commission and must retain fiscal records for a period of three (3) years following completion of the grant period.

Organizations that have been previously funded by the Arts Commission must fulfill final reporting obligations before new grant funds will be distributed.

ALTERNATE FORMAT APPLICATION

Upon request, Arts Commission grant application materials will be made available in alternate format such as Braille, large type, or on audiotape.

For applicants who are hearing-impaired and require TTD/TTY assistance, call (800) 735-2900.