

ARTS PARTNERSHIP

Support for Arts Education Projects

The Arts Partnership program supports arts education projects that address the needs of individual learners and their communities. Grant recipients engage in collaborative planning with partners, emphasize in-depth study of the arts, and use arts learning outcomes and standards-based arts education practices. By supporting these projects and programs, the OAC strengthens arts education locally, regionally, and statewide.

GRANT AWARDS: Applicants may request between \$4,000 and \$25,000. All awards require a 1:1 cash match.

ELIGIBILITY: All applicants must possess nonprofit status or nonprofit intent, but need not be registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Applicants may be: 1) arts and cultural organizations in any arts discipline (literature, performing arts, visual arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, etc.); 2) other organizations that provide arts programming (government entities, social service agencies, etc.); or 3) educational organizations (public, private, charter, and parochial schools from pre-kindergarten through university level) that demonstrate a commitment to arts programming in a larger community setting.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Applicants choose whether to apply for a one- or two-year Arts Partnership award. This program supports Ohio schools and organizations that plan and conduct projects with arts learning at their core. Priority is given to projects that target underserved populations—including, but not limited to, youth populations in rural or urban communities. Many grantees use funding to support artistic or educational expenses. Other allowable expenses include program planning and evaluation. The budget section of the Arts Partnership application provides a full list of allowable expense areas.

Ancillary activities including tickets to performances, travel, and final product expenses (e.g., costumes, fairs and festivals, awards programs, etc.) should only be included in project costs when they are integral to project goals. Projects should supplement but not supplant an existing school program, including any after-school component of a curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular school activity. Travel expenses should not exceed 10 percent of the total project cost, or \$1,000. Please refer to the [Introduction and Overview](#) for a list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

Sample activities might include:

- Enhancing skills or knowledge necessary for learners of any age to engage in the arts
- Assisting professional development efforts that prepare educators to engage arts learners
- Conducting research advancing the depth of knowledge about best practices in arts education
- Leading planning work to expand access to arts learning in schools and communities
- Hands-on participatory art-making with older adults

HOW TO APPLY: All applications to the Arts Partnership program must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Organizational Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1 (annually)

NOTE: Applications for one-year funding are accepted during both odd-numbered and even-numbered years; applications for two-year funding are accepted during odd-numbered years only.

STAFF CONTACT

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OFF-YEAR UPDATE DEADLINE: March 1 of even-numbered years only (e.g., 2016, 2018, 2020)

For two-year Arts Partnership grants, there is no application review prior to the second year of the award. However, applicants must submit a brief summary of upcoming programming and updated budget information for the second year of their grant by the off-year deadline.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of arts and cultural professionals, educators, artists, and other community members evaluate and score Arts Partnership grant applications. Panel meetings are open to the public and audio-streamed online, and representatives of applying organizations are encouraged to attend or listen online. Visit the calendar on the OAC's [Grants](#) page for meeting details and instructions for participating.

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist enters a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are into four categories: Program Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Criteria evidence may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Program Quality (25 points)

- Arts learning experiences are sequential, in-depth, and high-quality, and emphasize developing the creative abilities of learners
- Artistic and educational programming evolves creatively to maintain relevance and vitality over time
- Educational materials reflect credible research and appropriateness for the target audience
- Staff, artists, consultants, and/or volunteers possess the skills and knowledge to achieve stated goals
- Activities reflect best practices in education and arts education and address relevant standards

Community Engagement (10 points)

- Efforts to engage participants are intentional and energetic, as well as inclusive of people with disabilities
- Activities are effectively promoted to target audiences and the larger community using up-to-date tools

Defining and Measuring Success (15 points)

- Project planning is informed by adequate needs assessment, and involves a broad range of voices
- Success is clearly defined, measurable, and meaningful
- Relevant measurement and thorough documentation captures programs' impact on the community, with past findings used to guide future planning

Resource Management (10 points)

- Budget for proposed activities is realistic, aligned with proposal narrative, and supported by an appropriate range of earned and contributed income
- Sound administrative practices are led by qualified personnel

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the Arts Partnership grant lifecycle (including for two-year awards as applicable). Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

YEAR	DATE	AWARD YEAR	TASK/DEADLINE
2014	November 1	First Year	Application Available in ARTIE
2015	March 1	First Year	Application Deadline
	May	First Year	Panel Meeting
	July	First Year	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	First Year	Grant Agreement Deadline
2016	January 1	Second Year	Off-year Update Available in ARTIE
	March 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
2017	July 30	Second Year	Final Report Deadline