

Guidelines for Grassroots Arts Grants



Background

In 1977, the North Carolina General Assembly established the Grassroots Arts Program to ensure that every citizen had access to quality arts experiences. The program distributes funds for the arts, primarily through local arts councils, to all 100 counties using a per capita based formula. The creation of the Grassroots Arts Program increased the state's already growing number of local arts councils and helped establish North Carolina as a leader in the national community arts movement. Today we have one of the largest networks of local arts agencies in the country, including the nation's oldest arts council in Winston-Salem. Grassroots funds support hundreds of arts activities every year including community festivals, choral society concerts, community theater productions, art guild exhibitions, arts in education programs in schools, Native American powwow celebrations, classes and workshops, African drumming circles, and craft fairs.

As a Designated County Partner of the North Carolina Arts Council, the Gaston Arts Council is responsible for the local distribution of Grassroots Arts Program funds.

Who can apply

Any Gaston County-based, non-profit, tax-exempt organization that is in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that is seeking funding for arts programming that takes place within Gaston County can apply.

Individuals and groups that do not have tax-exempt status may apply with a fiscal agent organization.

The maximum grant amount that can be applied for is \$5,000 these funds need not be matched by the applicant. If matched the amount may consist of either cash or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions. Grant funds may not be used to match any other North Carolina Arts Council grant. Likewise, other state arts council grants may not be used to match this grant.

Two (2) typed copies of the application are due to the GAC office, PO Box 242 or 201 West Franklin Blvd, Gastonia NC 28053 by the deadline below.

Deadline: 12Noon May 13, 2011

Written Notification: July 2011

Grant Cycle: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Please be aware that final funding decisions will not be made until after State Legislature Closes Session.

Before submitting an application, please discuss your project with GAC staff.

This is a very competitive process with more applications each year than funds are available. Applications are reviewed by a panel group representing both GAC board members and also members of the community at large. Criteria used in the evaluation process include:

- Artistic merit of proposed project
- Evidence of innovative programming or collaborations
- Programming that reaches various segments of our community

Allowable Uses of Grassroots Funds

The Grassroots sub-granting system was designed to decentralize the grant making process at the state level and to be a local source of state support for arts organizations.

The first priority for awarding sub-grants should be projects of qualified arts organizations (where they exist) e.g. theaters, symphonies, galleries, art guilds, choral societies, dance companies, writers groups, arts festivals.

A second priority for sub-granting is support of arts in education programs conducted by qualified artists. These can take place in school settings, after school, or through summer programs. 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.

Grants may also be made to other community organizations that provide arts programs to the community. These programs should be conducted by qualified artists.

Grassroots Arts Program money may not be used for the following kinds of expenditures:

- Deficit reduction
- Contingency funds
- Hospitality or entertainment functions
- Interest on loans
- Lobbying expenses
- Tuition for academic study
- Indirect cost rate expenses
- Capital expenditures
- Internal school arts programming

Before submitting an application, please discuss your project with GAC staff.

For more information call the Gaston Arts Council office at 704-853-ARTS

Or visit our website at www.GastonArts.org