

Inclusive Arts Fund Grant Guidelines

Program Overview

The Inclusive Arts Fund supports small to mid-sized nonprofit organizations that have arts and culture at the core of their mission.

This fund is designed to strengthen the arts ecosystem across Southeast Michigan by investing in organizations that expand access to arts and cultural experiences and build organizational capacity.

We prioritize organizations that are deeply connected to the communities they serve and are working to ensure that arts and culture are accessible, inclusive, and impactful.

Funding Priorities

Competitive proposals will:

- Strengthen organizational capacity to support sustainable growth in programs and operations
- Advance equitable access to arts and culture across Southeast Michigan
- Demonstrate strong community presence and a track record of meaningful engagement

Key Details

- **Grant Amount:** \$25,000 (may be reduced to \$15,000 upon review)
- **Grant Term:** Typically, 12 months (up to 24 months may be considered)
- **Type of Support:** Flexible funding (project/program, general operating, or capacity building support)
- **Target Organizations:** Small to mid-sized arts and culture organizations with operating budgets under \$2 million

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or have a fiscal sponsor with 501(c)(3) status
- Have arts and culture as a core part of their mission
- Have an operating budget of \$2 million or less in their most recently completed fiscal year
- Be located in and/or serve one or more of the following counties: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, Livingston, and St. Clair

Additional notes:

- Fiscal sponsorships are permitted; the applicant organization must meet eligibility criteria
- The 11 organizations receiving direct annual funding through the Wilson Arts & Culture Designation are not eligible
- Grants will not be made to individuals, schools, or government entities

Inclusive Arts Fund Grant Guidelines

Rural Communities

In rural communities where there are limited arts-focused organizations, the Foundation may consider organizations whose primary mission is broader but that provide consistent, high-quality arts and cultural programming.

Organizations seeking consideration under this provision should demonstrate:

- A clear and ongoing commitment to arts and cultural programming
- Meaningful engagement with the community through arts-based work

What We Fund/Do Not Fund

We support:

- Organizational capacity building (staffing, systems, operations)
- Arts and cultural programming and initiatives
- Efforts that expand access, participation, and inclusion in the arts
- Organizations with active programming and community engagement

We do not prioritize:

- Organizations with limited or inactive programming
- Requests that do not clearly demonstrate organizational or community impact
- Newly established organizations with limited operational history may be less competitive for funding

Application Process

Applications are submitted through the Community Foundation's online grant portal (MyCF).

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A description of how funds will be used
- Organizational goals and expected outcomes
- A budget and key organizational information

Inclusive Arts Fund Grant Guidelines

Visit the [Community Foundation website](#) for current application timelines and deadlines.

Required Documents

Applicants should be prepared to submit:

- Current board list
- Most recent financial documentation within 3 years (audit, financial review, IRS Form 990, or exemption documentation)
 - If available, organizations are encouraged to submit audited financial statements or financial reviews in addition to the IRS Form 990
- Current year organizational operating budget
- A signed cover letter

Review Process & Criteria

Applications are evaluated based on:

- Alignment with fund priorities
- Strength and clarity of organizational goals
- Potential to strengthen organizational capacity
- Impact on community access to arts and culture
- Organizational readiness and sustainability

Additional Information

- Organizations may submit one application per round
- Organizations are not eligible for funding in consecutive years
- Funding is competitive and not guaranteed

Contact

For questions about this opportunity, please contact: impact@cfsem.org