

Guidelines for Grassroots Arts Program Subgrants

Since 1977, the N. C. Arts Council's Grassroots Arts Program has provided North Carolina citizens access to quality arts experiences. The program distributes funds for the arts in all 100 counties of the state primarily through partnerships with local arts councils, serves as the N. C. Arts Council's partner in awarding subgrants to local organizations for arts programs in Buncombe County.

Eligibility for Application

- All organizations must have been in operation for at least one year. While nonprofit 501(C)(3) status is preferred, organizations that are nonprofit in nature may also apply. (Recommended, but not required.)
- All organizations must reside and carry out projects within Buncombe County.
- . Organizations (State Arts Resources, Outreach-Sustaining, Statewide Services) that receive general operating support directly from the N. C. Arts Council must get written approval from N. C. Arts Council staff before applying for Grassroots funds. (Under some circumstances, exceptions can be made.)
- Individuals are not eligible to apply for Grassroots Arts funds.
- Applications and support materials must be completed and received by the due date.

What the Grassroots Arts Program Funds

Grassroots Arts Program funds may be used for expenditures to conduct quality arts programs or operate an arts organization. Typical uses of Grassroots money include:

- Program expenses such as artists' fees and travel, space rental, advertising, marketing and publicity, website and electronic media, scripts, costumes, sets, props, music and equipment rental or purchase
- Operating expenses such as salaries, telephone, office supplies, printing, postage, rent, utilities, insurance and equipment rental or purchase

Priorities for Funding

The first priority of the Grassroots Arts subgrant program is to provide operating or program support to qualified arts organizations including theaters, symphonies, galleries, art guilds, choral societies, dance companies, folk arts societies, writers

groups and arts festivals, among others. Grassroots funds are not generally awarded to arts organizations that receive funding through the N. C. Arts Council's State Arts Resources. Organizations (State Arts Resources, Outreach-Sustaining, Statewide Services) that receive general operating support directly from the N. C. Arts Council must get written approval from N. C. Arts Council staff before applying for Grassroots funds.

The second priority of the Grassroots Arts subgrant program is to support arts learning and arts in education programs conducted by qualified artists. These can be artist residencies in schools, afterschool or summer camps or adult arts learning classes.

The third priority of Grassroots Arts subgrants is to community, civic and municipal organizations. These programs must be conducted by qualified artists.

Funding Policies

- Tribal organizations that receive Grassroots funds must represent state or federally recognized tribes.
- Colleges, universities and libraries may receive grants for arts programs that are community-based or generate regional arts involvement. Grants may not support their internal programs, administration or operation expenses (library books, band boosters, equipment purchases).
- Subgrants may not be awarded to individuals or to organizations for prizes, competitions, tuition, or financial rewards.
- Religious organizations or churches may not receive Grassroots funds unless the programs are presented outside regular church services, engage the larger community and do not contain religious content.
- 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.
- Municipalities (city/county governments) may receive grants for arts programs which use qualified artists to conduct programs that involve the greater community. Grants may not support internal programs, administration or operating expenses.

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

- Art, music, and dance therapists
- Artifacts
- Purchase artwork
- Capital expenditures
- Contingency funds
- Deficit reduction
- Fundraising events
- Food or beverages for hospitality or entertainment functions
- School band activities or equipment
- School choral activities
- Lobbying expenses
- Oral history and history projects
- Tuition for academic study
- Interest on loans, fines, or litigation costs

Grassroots Arts Program Subgrant Requirements

Matching Requirement

All subgrantees are encouraged to match their grant amounts dollar for dollar. The funds must come from other public or private sources. Other N. C. Arts Council funds cannot be used as a match.