ArtsForward 2025

ArtsNow

Information and Eligibility

ArtsForward Grant Guidelines

This funding provides direct support to nonprofit organizations and individuals applying through a nonprofit fiscal sponsor. Projects must be new work, align with at least one priority of the Akron/Summit Cultural Plan, and benefit Summit County communities. Applicants may request up to $25,000. Eligible projects can include, but are not limited to:

- Arts festivals, music, dance, literary or theatrical performances, or workshops.
- Art, movement, literature/poetry, or music therapy programming.
- Writing or visual art activities.

If you have any questions, please visit our FAQ page or contact Grants@ArtsNow.org.

Eligibility Requirements*

- The proposal must advance one of the ten priorities of the Akron/Summit Cultural Plan
- The project takes place within Summit County
- Qualify as one of the following entities eligible for application:
  o Nonprofit or community organizations holding a current **tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3)** of the Internal Revenue Code
  o Recognized governmental entities including state, county, or city agencies such as health departments
  o Educational facilities, such as K-12 public, private, or charter schools or school districts and higher education institutions

I have read and understand the listed eligibility requirements.

Choices

Yes

No

Application Process

- All applications, attachments, and work samples will be submitted through ArtsNow's online grant platform. This is an online, written application. If you prefer an alternate format (e.g., dictated responses, video responses, other languages), please contact Grants@ArtsNow.org, and we will do our best to accommodate.

- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of conflict-free reviewers with diverse experience in arts administration, arts activities, or arts funding.

Project Details

Are you using a fiscal sponsor? Yes/No*

If no, please type "N/A."

If yes, please provide the following information:

       a. Name of Organization, Fiscal Sponsor
       b. EIN, Fiscal Sponsor
       c. Name of Executive Director, Fiscal Sponsor
       d. Email of Executive Director, Fiscal Sponsor msocom_1

Character Limit: 2000

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

Project start date*

Character Limit: 10

Project end date*

Project must be completed by September 30, 2026

Character Limit: 10

Project location*

Projects must take place in Summit County to be eligible for funding. Please select the community where your project will take place from the list below. *(If you are planning on multiple sites, please select all that apply.)*

Choices

City of Akron
City of Barberton
Bath Township
Village of Boston Heights
Boston Township
Village of Clinton
Copley Township
Coventry Township
City of Cuyahoga Falls
City of Fairlawn
City of Green
City of Hudson
Village of Lakemore
City of Macedonia
Village of Mogadore

City of Munroe Falls
City of New Franklin
Northfield Center Township
Village of Northfield
City of Norton
Village of Peninsula
Village of Reminderville
Richfield Township
Village of Richfield
Sagamore Hills Township
Village of Silver Lake
Springfield Township
City of Stow
City of Tallmadge
City of Twinsburg
Twinsburg Township

Brief description of project*

Provide a brief summary of the activities your organization is planning to carry out during the upcoming grant period.

Character Limit: 2000

Akron/Summit Cultural Plan Priority Alignment*

Which priority aligns most closely with your project?

Note that the priority you select will not impact funding decisions–please select the priority that best represents your project.

Choices
Equity, Priority 1
Accessibility, Priority 2
Education, Priority 3
Talent, Priority 4
Engagement, Priority 5
Resources, Priority 6
Connections, Priority 7
Placemaking, Priority 8
Economic Impact, Priority 9
Public Art, Priority 10

Defining and Measuring Success

How will the community benefit from the proposed project?*
Consider the following in your response:

- **Who is your community?** This could include artists, youth, educators, local businesses, neighborhoods, historically underrepresented groups, or the broader public. Define who you aim to serve.

- **What specific benefits will result?** Will your project increase access to the arts, provide economic opportunities, create public art, offer education, or foster cultural connection?

- **How does this align with community needs?** Does it fill a gap in programming, respond to a demand, promote inclusion, or support local creatives?

Character Limit: 2500

How will your project advance the Akron/Summit Cultural Plan priority you identified above?*

- How will your project advance the Akron/Summit Cultural Plan priority you identified above?

- *For detailed descriptions of each priority, please visit https://www.akronculturalplan.com/public-priorities.*

Character Limit: 2000

What are your goals for this project?*

- You will be asked to report out on the goals you identify.

- Outline the specific goals you aim to achieve through this project. These should be clear, measurable objectives that will guide your work and demonstrate impact.

Examples:

- Facilitate 8-10 photography workshops for youth ages 12-16.

- Engage at least 200 community members in a public art installation.

- Host four community storytelling events featuring local voices.

- Provide workshops on grant writing for at least 30 artists.

Character Limit: 2500

How will you know if you were successful in meeting these goals?*

Describe how you will measure the success of your project. Consider both qualitative and quantitative ways to assess impact. Will you track attendance, collect participant feedback, evaluate artistic outcomes, or measure community engagement? Be specific about the methods you'll use to determine if you've met your goals.

Examples:

- Track attendance and participation numbers for workshops or events.

- Collect surveys or testimonials from participants and audience members.

- Measure social media engagement, press coverage, or community response.

- Assess artistic growth through participant portfolios or final presentations.

- Gather feedback from collaborators, artists, or partner organizations.

- Compare project outcomes to your initial goals and expectations.

Character Limit: 2500

Team Members*

- Please describe the expertise, experience, and unique strengths of the team members who will lead and bring this project to life.

- List the personnel who will be involved in the project and what their roles will be.

Character Limit: 2500

Links to documentations/media of team members' work (e.g., resumes, portfolios, work samples)*

You can include links to videos, photobooks, artist websites, press releases, Instagram accounts, etc.

Example:

1. www.youtube.com/098wregf0978e6rg98576
2. www.photobook.com/iu432y59f349875239f4
3. www.artistname.com
4. www.instagram.com/iasydf87a6sdf

If you don't have social media or access to Dropbox/Google Drive, you can use these free platforms to upload and share your work via a link:

Free File & Media Sharing Options:

WeTransfer (www.wetransfer.com) – Upload files and generate a shareable link.

Imgur (www.imgur.com) – Best for sharing images (photos, flyers, etc.).

YouTube/Vimeo (www.youtube.com / www.vimeo.com) – Upload videos and set them to public or unlisted.

Still have questions? Reach out to us at Grants@ArtsNow.org.

If none, please enter N/A
Character Limit: 5000

Budget and Financials

How much are you requesting from ArtsForward?*

The amount must be $25,000 or less.

Character Limit: 20

Project Budget*

Please provide a budget, including a breakdown of income and expenses.
If needed, a project budget template is available here.

If you want to use the provided template. Click the link above to open the spreadsheet.
In the top-left corner, click File > Download > Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) to save it to your device.
Open the downloaded file, complete the required fields, and save your changes.
Return to this page and click the "Upload a file" button below to submit your completed spreadsheet.

You may also provide your budget by making a table in Microsoft Word. Please see our template to view the fields we require.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Budget narrative (optional)

Use this box to clarify any information presented on your budget worksheet.

Character Limit: 2000

Organization's operating budget*

Character Limit: 20

Upload operating budget

If you are an individual artist, you do not need to upload an organization budget.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Is there anything else you would like the review panel to know about your project?

Use this space to share any additional details that strengthen your application. This could include unique aspects of your project, community impact, partnerships, or anything not covered in previous responses.

Final Thoughts

Is there anything else you would like the review panel to know about your project?
Use this space to share any additional details that strengthen your application. This could include unique aspects of your project, community impact, partnerships, or anything not covered in previous responses.

Character Limit: 2000

Internal Section

Staff Check List (Admin Only)

Choices

Verified 501c3 (Charity Check)

Project takes place in Summit County

Verified 501c3 determination letter

Verified links documention of artist(s) work

Eligible

INELIGIBLE