



FY2025 Guide to Arts Council Grants

For projects occurring July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Please refer to the [Guide to Grants](#) for complete information on Missouri Arts Council funding policies. Grant Programs are subject to change due to budget restrictions.

The purpose is to fund programs and services provided by arts councils in Missouri's communities outside the city of St. Louis or Kansas City.

Two Things Define Arts Councils

Focus on community

An arts council involves the full community, including stakeholders in and out of the arts. It is not a club for the arts, or primarily its own members. It *is* designed to support the community *with* the arts.

Focus on all the Arts

An Arts Council promotes and supports *ALL* the arts in a community. Not just a single discipline or event.

Every arts council is as different as the community they support. Some produce and present art. Others promote and support it. For some, the arts programming is for a limited time period while others are year-round. Some arts councils have paid staff and others are managed by volunteers.

Arts Councils contribute to artistic excellence, present needed arts programs, reflect community diversity, support local cultural traditions, support cultural organizations, encourage arts education in the schools, and promote advocacy efforts to develop public and private support locally.

What Does MAC Fund in Arts Council Grants?

Missouri Arts Council funding supports the cost of providing arts programming and services to artists and organizations and/or presenting and producing cultural programming for the public.

Organizations applying through Arts Council Grant must offer arts programs in more than one discipline and/or offer arts services and foster the long-term cultural development of the community. Missouri Arts Council-funded arts disciplines include dance, electronic media, festivals, literature, music, theater, and visual arts. Examples of arts services include arts event calendars, newsletters, technical assistance, cultural planning, and funding for arts programs.

- **Basic and Project Support:** The Missouri Arts Council will support administrative expenses, including salary support, when these expenses are part of the proposed programs. This must be clearly described in the Budget Detail in the application.
- **Operating Support:** Organizations applying for Operating Support, must provide arts programs and services on a year-round basis. The Missouri Arts Council will support administrative expenses, including salary support, in this grant program.

Missouri Arts Council does not provide support for art courses, for children or adults, unless they are directed to an underserved population. This is defined as those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics or disability. Organizations requesting support for

art courses must demonstrate that the majority of the target audience qualify as an underserved population according to MAC's definition. For additional funding policies, consult the [Guide to Grants](#).

Eligibility Requirements for Arts Council Grants

To be eligible for Arts Council funding, organizations must meet and maintain the basic eligibility requirements for Missouri Arts Council funding as stated in the [Guide to Grants](#) as well as the following:

- **Organizations must be located outside the city limits** of Kansas City and St. Louis. They may be located in St. Louis County and Jackson County (outside of Kansas City limits).
- **Only one organization per community** is eligible to apply.
 - In towns with populations over 10,000, the applicant organization must be an arts council or unit of local government.
 - In communities with populations under 10,000 or in special circumstances (for example, county-wide), the applicant organization may be a community arts council, community betterment agency, historical society, chamber of commerce, or service club.
- **Organizations must be governed by a citizen committee or board** whose members are elected or appointed by persons other than the board members themselves and serve terms limited in number and duration.
 - When the organization is not primarily an arts organization (for example, department of city government, or chamber of commerce), the board or citizen committee must be a cultural or arts board. Such a board may be advisory to an elected or appointed body and must be designated by the ranking official or governing body.
- **Offer programs in more than one arts discipline**, and/or offer arts services and foster the long-term cultural development of the community. Missouri Arts Council-funded arts disciplines include dance, electronic media, festivals, literature, music, theater, and visual arts. Examples of arts services include arts event calendars, newsletters, technical assistance, cultural planning, and funding for arts programs.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for Operating Support

To be eligible for Operating Support funding, organizations must meet these additional criteria:

- The organization's operating revenue for arts programs must be \$50,000 or more for the most recently completed fiscal year. Eligible revenue cannot include endowments, capital improvements, restricted funds, and acquisition income (such as donated works of art).
- Organization must schedule arts programs on a year-round basis. Organizations with seasonal programs are not eligible to apply for operating support.
- The organization must have at least one part-time staff member on the organization's payroll. This position must be dedicated solely to arts programs.

Grant Request

- **Basic Support:** Eligible organizations may request up to \$4,000 of arts program expenses, using the Express Project application and selecting "Arts Council Basic" for Grant Program. The Missouri Arts Council accepts new applications for Basic Support from eligible organizations with eligible arts programming every year.
- **Project Support:** Eligible organizations may request up to \$40,000, using the **Annual Discipline application** and selecting "Arts Council Project Support" for Grant Program.

The Missouri Arts Council accepts new applications for Project Support from eligible organizations with eligible arts programming generally every other year. For FY2025, this program will be open to new applicants.

- **Operating Support:** Eligible organizations may request up to \$40,000, using the Annual Discipline application and selecting “Arts Council Operating Support” for Grant Program.

The Missouri Arts Council accepts new applications for Operating Support generally every three years. For FY2025, this program will be open to new applicants.

Additional Grants

Organizations receiving an Arts Council Grant may apply for one additional grant in Express Touring for Community or Arts Education (annual or express).

Organizations interested in pursuing additional grant opportunities should consult the appropriate [guidelines and application](#) and the [program specialist](#).

Review Criteria

Missouri Arts Council endeavors to distribute funds fairly and equitably among art forms and across the geographic and ethnic diversity of Missouri. Advisory panelists evaluate applications according to three criteria: artistic quality (30%), community involvement (40%), and management ability (30%). The evaluation criteria are described in the [Guide to Grants](#) (pages 21-22).

Deadlines

- **Annual Discipline Application:** Draft application due 11:59 p.m. January 29, 2024; Final application due 11:59 p.m. February 26, 2024.
- **Arts Council Basic Applications** are accepted on a rolling deadline, by the first Monday of the month which is at least two months before the project event date (or project incurs expenses, whichever occurs first). The Missouri Arts Council encourages organizations to submit applications early to secure funding (first come, first served basis) and encourage advance planning.

FY2025 Grant Cycle

MAC is accepting new applications from eligible organizations for FY2025 funding in:

- **Arts Council – Basic Support** using the Express Project application.
- **Arts Council – Project Support** using the Annual Discipline application.
- **Arts Council – Operating Support** using the Annual Discipline application.

For More Information: Consult the [Guide to Grants](#) for details on funding policies, application review process, advisory panels, determining grant amount, and discipline-specific requirements. For questions, contact Karon Majeel Hatchett, Community Development Specialist, at 314-340-6858 or karon.hatchett@ltgov.mo.gov.