

ARTS PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Fiscal Year 2026

BACKGROUND

The Arts Partnership Grant program ("the program") is administered by the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). Through the program, IEDA provides financial incentives to nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations; schools; area education agencies; local, county, state and federal governmental agencies; and tribal councils to support regional and statewide arts convenings and strategic initiatives that align with the Iowa Arts Council 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

The program is funded through an appropriation by the Iowa Legislature to the IEDA and a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Applicants must comply with federal requirements, including but not limited to 2 CFR Part 200.

Operating and granting policies set out at 261 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 305 and definitions and rules pertaining to organization and operation of the Iowa Arts Council found at 261 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 304 apply to the program. Additional eligibility requirements and priorities are set out in these guidelines published by the IEDA.

QUESTIONS

Potential applicants are encouraged to review all published material, including the administrative rules and published guidelines, and contact the interim Iowa Arts Council Director Jennie Knoebel at jennie.knoebel@iowaeda.com in advance of applying.

ACCESSIBILITY

The IEDA is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to eligible applicants. For technical support submitting the online application, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator, Elizabeth Ferreira, at 515-348-6325 or elizabeth.ferreira@iowaeda.com, at least two weeks in advance of the application deadline.

TIMELINE

August 8, 2025 | Fiscal Year 2026 Application Opens

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Typically, applicants are notified of funding decisions within eight weeks after the application deadline.

October 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, | Eligible Funding Period

All expenses must be incurred and project activities must be completed within the Eligible Funding Period.

April 28, 2026 l Application Deadline

The latest date to submit an online application is 11:59 PM on April 28, 2026.

August 1, 2026 l Final Report Deadline

Grant recipients are encouraged to submit a final report within 30 days of the completion of their project. The latest date to submit a final report is August 1, 2026.

GRANT AMOUNTS AND DISBURSEMENT

One-Time Project Expenses

Applicants may request funding for eligible one-time project expenses that are incurred and expended during the Eligible Funding Period.

- Minimum Grant Request: $2,500
- Maximum Grant Request: $40,000

The IEDA reserves the right to adjust funding levels based on the quality of submitted applications and available funding.

Grant Payment and Reimbursement

Grant recipients will receive 50% of the grant amount in a lump sum after execution of the grant agreement. The remaining 50% of the grant award funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis after the grant recipient demonstrates the grant funds and required matching funds have been spent by providing documentation of expenditures and proof of purchase on forms provided by the IEDA. Recipients will need to complete a final report at the end of the eligible funding period. The IEDA will require repayment of disbursed grant funds no later than 30 days after the end of the Eligible Funding Period if the recipient fails to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the IEDA that it has completed the grant project.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be one of the following types of entities. Entities who do not fall into one of these categories are not eligible to apply.

- An active Iowa nonprofit organization registered with the Iowa Secretary of State that is exempt from federal taxes pursuant to Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) and maintains a staffed office physically located within the State of Iowa.
- A nonprofit organization physically located within a Border City, but otherwise meets the eligibility requirements in these guidelines, that is applying for a project that will service Iowa audiences.
- A nonprofit organization that has not yet achieved federal tax-exempt status, but otherwise meets the eligibility requirements in these guidelines, that is applying through a Fiscal Agent.
- Educational institution, organization or K-12 school whose primary orientation, mission and purposes are education and/or awarding academic credits.
- Unit of local, county, state or federally recognized tribal government physically located in Iowa.
- Area Education Agencies.

An organization whose primary purpose is to channel resources (financial, human or other) to an affiliated organization may only apply if the affiliated organization does not submit its own application. This prohibition applies even if each organization has its own 501(c)(3) status. For example, the "Friends of ABC Museum" may not apply if the ABC Museum, itself, has applied.

Accessibility - Americans with Disabilities Act

Applicant must demonstrate that it is in compliance or actively working to be in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These laws prohibit discrimination against individuals with physical and/or mental disabilities. Both programmatic and structural accessibility must be addressed in the application.

Universal Entity Identifier (SAM-UEI)

Entities applying for the IEDA's programs must be registered with the U.S. Government's System for Award Management (SAM), at www.sam.gov/. Entities that register in SAM.gov are assigned a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is required for doing business with the federal government. All applicants for the IEDA's programs except for individual applicants are required to have a UEI and maintain a SAM.gov registration for the duration of the application process and, if awarded a grant, for the life of the award.

Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible applicants include individual applicants and the following types of entities.

- For-profit corporation or business.
- Political party.
- National service/professional organization.
- Organization that has received grants, loans or other incentives through the Iowa Arts Council or other program administered by the IEDA that are not in compliance with reporting or other requirements or that are listed on the IEDA's funding moratorium list.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Program Update

Eligible projects must clearly align with one of the following categories:

Regional and Statewide Arts Convenings

Includes significant regional and statewide arts events, convenings and conferences that strengthen the knowledge, skills and capacity of Iowa arts professionals and organizations. Eligible projects will provide high quality professional or leadership development opportunities, advance practice in the arts in Iowa, and strengthen networks to enhance regional and statewide collaboration in the arts.

Arts, Health and Well-being

Includes the launch or expansion of programming that demonstrates how the arts can strengthen belonging and social connection and positively impact the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Eligible projects must be integrated into larger strategies and show clear and measurable outcomes related to improving health and well-being.

Strategic Initiatives (by Invitation Only)

Includes projects that involve a strategic partnership between the Iowa Arts Council and external organizations to strengthen services for the arts in Iowa; evaluate, measure and communicate the impact of the arts and creative sector; or carry out special projects that align with one or more current goals in the Iowa Arts Council 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

Note: Projects that are focused on the creation, performance or presentation of artworks are ineligible for the Arts Partnership Grant, unless specifically tied to the Arts, Health and Wellness Category. Applicants should apply to the appropriate IAC grant program for all other types of projects that include the creation, performance, or presentation of artworks.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Grant Request Expenses

Art Partnership Grants support project expenses that are essential to the completion of the proposed project. The grant request must be dedicated to eligible one-time, direct project expenses, and legitimate parts of the proposed project and must be incurred and expended within the eligible funding period. Expenses identified in the grant request should be based on competitive, current market pricing.

Expenses eligible for reimbursement include direct project costs such as:

- Access accommodations (e.g., audio description, sign-language interpretation, closed or open captioning, large-print brochures/labeling)
- Artist fees (e.g. creation, preparation, performance time)
- Domestic travel (e.g. mileage, accommodation, per diem)
- Marketing (e.g. print material, ad buys, design fees)
- Overhead and Administrative Costs that are directly allocable to the project (e.g. a percentage of space/facility costs, the percentage of staff time for the administrative support of a project) *
- • Personnel time dedicated to the project** (e.g. planning, execution, evaluation time)
- Presenter/Speaker fees (e.g. presenters offering sessions at a convening, keynote speakers, session facilitators)
- Professional services (e.g. printer, graphic designer, security)
- Rentals (e.g. stages, lighting/sound, scissor lift, portable restrooms)

* Overhead and Administrative Costs must be reasonable and consistent with best practices in financial management. It should not simply be a percentage of the project budget. Applicants must be able to calculate the actual costs included in the line item.

**Applicant must demonstrate how personnel time is specifically dedicated to the proposed project. Personnel benefits, such as health insurance and paid time off, are not eligible for reimbursement. State of Iowa agencies cannot include personnel costs in the grant request, but such expenses may be included as part of the cash match requirement.

Ineligible Grant Request Expenses

Expenses that fall outside of the identified eligible expenses for the project may not be included as part of the grant request.

Ineligible grant request expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition/purchase of artwork
- Budget shortfalls
- Capital expenditures, including the purchase of fixed assets or tangible personal property, including information technology systems, having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit cost that is equal to or greater than $10,000
- Collection, maintenance or restoration expenses
- Costs of goods for resale, including concessions or promotional merchandise such as clothing or items purchased for sale
- Facilities costs and staffing expenses except personnel costs dedicated to the project or indirect costs as described above
- Food, beverage and alcohol. Food and beverage may be included if they have a clear programmatic purpose.
- Costs for the creation of new organizations
- Deficit or debt reduction
- Donations or contributions to other organizations
- Expenses incurred prior to or after the eligible funding period

- Foreign travel
- Funding cash reserve or endowment accounts or instruments
- Fundraising or benefit activity expenses
- General miscellaneous or contingency costs
- Lobbying activity
- Personnel benefits
- Prizes and awards
- Project costs supported by any other federal or state funding
- Property maintenance, restoration or renovation expenses
- Purchase and/or use of gift cards and gift certificates to support project costs
- Purchase of a vehicle
- Unrealized ticket or event revenue, i.e., providing free tickets or scholarships to attend an event
- Visa costs paid to the federal government

Match Requirement

Applicants are required to demonstrate investment in the project by providing one to one matching funds to the total grant amount requested from the IEDA. For example, an applicant that requests $10,000 in grant funds needs at least $10,000 in matching funds for a minimum total grant project budget of $20,000.

The required matching funds must be dedicated to one-time project expenses that are legitimate parts of the proposed project. Matching funds may be all cash or a combination of cash and inkind contributions. Applicants will need to include any in-kind contributions as direct costs in the project budget to balance the budget. The applicant is not required to secure the matching funds at the time of application but must secure them by the end of the eligible funding period and identify them in the final report due August 1, 2026.

- Cash match is actual cash, like cash donations, grants, organizational reserves, and revenues that are received for the project.
- In-kind match is non-cash goods or services provided at no charge to the project by a third party. The use and value of third-party contributions must be properly documented. All third-party contributions must be necessary and reasonable for the project. Expenses used for matching funds must adhere to the same expense eligibility requirements as detailed in the budget requirements section of these guidelines. State or federal funds cannot be used to meet the match requirement. Funds provided by units of county or local government may be used to meet the match requirement.

REVIEW PROCESS

Eligibility Review

Submitted applications are reviewed by staff for completion, eligibility, and adherence to published guidelines. Applications are reviewed as submitted, provided that the IEDA may contact applicants

if any additional information is required. New application information or subsequent application clarification submitted after a program deadline is not considered unless requested by an IEDA program manager. Staff will also review an applicant's record of compliance and good standing with the Iowa Arts Council, the IEDA, other state agencies, including but not limited to the Iowa Department of Revenue, and federal government agencies or departments. Applications or applicants determined by staff to be ineligible or incomplete will not move forward. A determination as to eligibility or completeness is final agency action.

Staff Review

Eligible applications will be reviewed by staff for compliance with program guidelines and requirements and may be recommended for funding based on the availability of program funds and alignment with one or more goals in the IAC's strategic plan. Recommendations are submitted to the IEDA Director for consideration and funding approval.

Decision Notification

Applicants are typically notified of funding decisions, including decisions to decline to fund applications, within eight weeks after the application deadline. Applicants are encouraged to refrain from contacting staff for application status updates during the funding decision process.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must submit applications via the Iowa Arts Council's SlideRoom, an online application portal. Applications will not be accepted in any other format. Late, incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted. Applicants can access the current online application requirements at iowaartscouncil.slideroom.com. Applicants must create a login to view the full application requirements for the program. Applicants can visit help.liaisonedu.com for assistance related to the online submission.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

The following application questions are provided for reference only. Applicants must review and complete application requirements in the SlideRoom portal.

Applicant Overview

Mission Statement

Enter applicant's mission statement.

Applicant Profile

Describe applicant's organizational history and the community it serves. Provide a broad overview of the programs and services the organization offers.

Project Description Describe the project activities that will take place during the funding period, including:

- What the project activities are and how they will be accessible by the public.
- Where the project activities will take place.
- Why applicant is proposing to do this project. Is the project part of regular ongoing programming, like an annual event or exhibit/performing arts series? (Yes/No) If yes, describe how the grant funds will be used to supplement, enhance, or otherwise provide additional opportunities that the applicant has not been able to offer in the past with the existing programming.

Schedule of Key Project Dates

Provide a timeline of when project activities outlined in the Project Description will occur. Be sure to include when key artistic decisions will be made, project phases, and events, as applicable. Grant projects may represent a phase of a larger project with a longer timeline. If, for context, you describe activities that occur outside of the eligible funding period, indicate by adding an asterisk (*). Deadlines can be listed as the month it is set to be complete, such as "September 2025", rather than a specific date.

Community Involvement

Describe the intended communities, participants, and/or audiences involved in the project activities, including:

- Key Demographics
- Specific plans to engage the identified groups in the project activities
- How they will benefit from project activities
- Plans to provide equitable access to project activities.

Project Partners & Key Individuals

Complete the table below outlining at least one and up to ten key individuals (such as staff, artists, teaching artists, collaborators, consultants, mentors) and/or partner organizations involved in the project. Because all projects require matching resources from non-federal or state sources, organizations that only provide money are not considered partners. Funders are not excluded from being partners, but they must also supply human resources or information capital or actively participate in another way to be considered partners. Include the individual or Partner Organization's Name and if they are tentative or committed to partnering on the project.

Project Partner & Key Individuals

Description Describe why the applicant had chosen the identified partners for this project, what their role will be, and their biographical experience or knowledge relative to this project.

Project Goal and Monitoring

State at least one distinct and measurable goal for the project. Effective goals are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant to the project. They will articulate what the applicant or the intended audience will learn or experience by participating in the proposed arts activities. For example: “We will introduce new youth studio art classes to advance our goal of attracting more families with children to visit the art center.” Describe how the applicant will monitor and evaluate progress toward the stated goal. Examples of evaluation activities include, but are not limited to, surveys of program participants, measuring attendance, and third-party program evaluations. If applicable, include plans to share learnings and outcomes. In addition, select one Iowa Arts Council strategic goal that best aligns with applicant’s stated goal(s).

- Assist organizations with their challenge of attracting new and younger audience members.
- Foster arts programming that seeks to advance individual and community health and well-being.
- Greater adoption of best practices around accessibility by Iowa’s arts organizations • Intentionally engage artists in community development initiatives.
- More Iowa K-12 students have access to meaningful arts learning opportunities and career and learning pathways in the arts.
- Nurture and support cross-sector partnerships that include the arts and artists as a core partner to address community needs.

Project Budget

Direct Project Expenses

Itemize the eligible direct grant project expenses covered by both the requested Iowa Arts Council funds and the Matching Funds in the table below. These are costs that are expended specifically for the project during the period of performance. Review the list of eligible and ineligible expenses found in the grant program guidelines. Do not include expenses that will be incurred outside the eligible funding period. Include a brief description of each expense and place the numeric dollar amount for that expense in the next column. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Total Indirect Costs

Enter the amount of indirect costs being applied to the Grant Project. Only include this number if the applicant has an appropriate indirect cost rate negotiated with the applicant’s Cognizant Federal agency. Alternatively, you can use a de minimis indirect cost rate of up to 15% of your modified total direct costs if you do not have a federally negotiated rate and did not include Overhead and Administrative Costs under the Direct Project Expenses. Modified Total Direct

Costs include salaries and wages, materials and supplies, services, and travel. Modified Total Direct Costs excludes equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, among others.

Total Project Costs/Expenses

Enter the total direct costs and indirect costs (if applicable) outlined in the tables above. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Enter the Amount Requested from the Iowa Arts Council

Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Matching Funds – Cash

Itemize each source of funding for the cash match, the amount from each source, and whether the funds have been secured. The funding source is where the cash match is coming from. This may include sources like private foundations; corporate or individual donors; ticket sales; or the organization's operating budget. Be as specific as possible in listing the source.

Matching Funds – In-Kind

Itemize third-party contributions to the project. These are non-cash goods and services that are necessary and reasonable for the project. Do not include goods, facilities, or services contributed by your own organization as these are considered part of your own organization’s cash cost share/match. The in-kind contributions must also be included as direct costs in the Direct Costs form above to balance the budget.

Total Project Revenue

Enter the total of the amount requested from the Iowa Arts Council and the matching funding outlined above. This amount should be equal to the Total Project Costs/Expenses. Round to the nearest dollar. Do not include dollar signs, decimals or commas.

Additional Project Budget Notes

Provide information to clarify any line item included in the project budget, or to provide further details on the scope of your project budget.

Artistic Work Samples (Optional)

For the Arts, Health and Wellness Category Only

Submit 3-5 artistic work samples, if applicable, and as relevant to the proposed art project as possible. Artistic work samples should be recent, high quality, and should demonstrate the quality of the artistic work highlighted in the proposed project or the quality of the applicant's past work as it relates to the proposed project. Samples can also include images or videos of past events or classes. For festival events, samples can include maps of the festival grounds. Artistic work samples DO NOT include links to websites, bios, testimonials, news articles or marketing material such as brochures, fliers or posters.

- Provide 3-5 items (include only if applicable to the project)
- Video and audio files should not exceed three minutes each.
- PDF files should not exceed three pages each.
- Each PDF should only represent one work sample (i.e. one poem would be considered one work sample).
- We will not view more than three pages of a work sample or more than three minutes of an audio or video file.
- If the artist(s) for the project is not yet selected, submit representative samples of work by artists the applicant has presented in the past.

Include a description with each sample, including:

- Title of the sample
- Date of the work or activity
- Names of artist(s) featured if applicable
- Relevance of the work sample to the proposed project
- If an audio or video sample is longer than three minutes, indicate the three-minute segment the panel should view.
- If a visual art sample, note the artistic medium being presented in the sample and the dimensions of the actual piece.

Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Applicants should refer to the glossary for clarification of program terms and definitions.