



**ORANGE COUNTY  
ARTS COMMISSION**

**ARTIST PROJECT GRANTS**  
*2022 Guidelines & Information*



# ABOUT OUR GRANTS

**Grassroots Program Grants** Funded by the NC Arts Council (NCAC) and Orange County, these grants fund arts programs, projects, and services through area nonprofits, schools, and municipal organizations.

**Artist Project Grants** Funded by Orange County, these grants fund artist-led projects and programs that positively benefit the greater community.

# ABOUT OUR GRANTS

## AVAILABLE FUNDS

- Fiscal Year 2021-22 Funds: approximately \$120k total; \$28k for APG
- Maximum request: \$2,000
- Average APG grant in 2021: \$1,383

## TIMELINE

- All grant applications due by 11:59PM on Friday, June 10
- Applicants will be notified in August
- Fall, 2022: Check presentation at Board of County Commissioners meeting (tentative)

# ELIGIBILITY

All projects/programs must take place in **Orange County**  
(Priority is given to Orange County artist-residents)

Must have a **positive impact on the greater community**  
(public art, education, entertainment)

Projects/programs must take place between  
**July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023**

Applicant must be an **individual artist or an unincorporated group of artists**. Projects affiliated with, or artists representing, an incorporated organization must apply as an organization through the Grassroots Arts Program.

# GUIDELINES

- **Artistic merit** is extremely important!
- Matching Requirement: One-to-one cash match **ENCOURAGED**. Matching funds could be your own money or other grants/funders. It's good to see you have some skin in the game.
- All Artist Project Grants must be used for **artist-led community programs or projects**. Grants cannot be used solely for professional development without community impact. (Check out the Artist Support Grant or Emerging Artist Grant Program for this type of funding)
- Provide proof of partnerships, community support and responsiveness to community needs, such as **letters of support** from anyone or any organization mentioned in your application.

# WHAT THE GRANTS WILL FUND

- Program expenses such as professional artists' fees and travel, space rental, advertising, marketing and publicity, website/electronic media, scripts, costumes, sets, props, equipment rental/purchase.
- Artist's travel and training expenses for professional development opportunities that will have a positive impact on the residents of Orange County through future programs
- Supplies needed for an artist project that will have a positive impact on the residents of Orange County through future programs.

# WHAT THE GRANTS WILL NOT FUND

- Art, music, and dance therapy
- Artifacts
- Purchase of artwork
- Fundraising events
- **Food or beverages** for hospitality or entertainment functions
- School band activities or equipment
- Internal school activities or supplies
- Tuition for academic study
- Scholarships
- Religious content
- **Rent at the Eno Arts Mill**
- **(Some) projects at the Eno Arts Mill (let's talk)**

# HOW APPLICATIONS ARE EVALUATED

- Panels of Orange County Arts Commission **Advisory Board Members and Guest Panelists**, divided by areas of expertise, review each grant
- Board must base funding decisions on the **quality of the grant application**, not on their relationship with, or knowledge of, the artist (pretend like you're new to the community and no one knows you!)
- Panelists review each grant application and **score applications** on specific criteria

# HOW APPLICATIONS ARE EVALUATED

## *Considerations...*

- **Artistic quality** of the proposed project
- **Community impact** of project or program
- **Multicultural aspect** of the program (factors into Community Impact Score)
- Ability to **plan and implement** project

### **2022 SCORING RUBRIC**

Artistic Merit – 40%

Community Impact – 40%

Program Management – 20%

# IF YOU GET FUNDED...

- Grant **Contract** (online through DocuSign)
- **Final report** with audience numbers + demographics (due July, 2023)
- Demonstrated use of correct **OCAC logo** on promotional materials and programs (compliance score to start next year!)
- **Thank you letters** to Orange County Board of Commissioners encouraged
- **Willingness to participate** in activities that showcase your project, or contribute to the betterment of the arts community of Orange County.

**EXAMPLE:** Check presentation at a Board of County Commissioner's meeting, or participation in future grant panels

# WHEN

*to submit your application*

Applications due

**Friday, June 10 by 11:59PM**

**[www.artsorange.org/grants](http://www.artsorange.org/grants)**

# F.A.Q.'s

**Q: Does my request have to involve a greater community purpose, or can I just apply for things I need to be successful?**

A: Our Artist Project Grants allow artists to advance their craft while offering truly original, innovative programming for the community. The purpose of this program is to support artist-led and artist-created projects for the community; this could include public art, support of arts spaces, or exhibits/performances accessible to the greater community. Artists seeking funding to support professional development should apply through the new Artist Support/Emerging Artist Grant program.

Again in this year's grant cycle, we will be particularly mindful of projects that align with the current needs of our arts community, including arts space and equitable access to the arts.

# F.A.Q.'s

## **Q: Can I use this grant for equipment, supplies or professional development opportunities?**

A: Artists seeking funding strictly to support professional development should apply through the new Artist Support/Emerging Artist Grant program. Equipment or supplies that are part of a program benefiting the greater community are allowed.

## **Q: What are some examples of artist-led community projects?**

Examples of 2021-22 funded projects:

- Emily Cataneo received \$1,762 to host a free fiction writing class for residents of Orange County.
- Erika Libero received \$1,756 towards a free Day Party Stage at Manifest Music Festival.
- Soteria Shepperson received \$1,678 to support Turning the Tables community public art project.

# F.A.Q.'s

**Q: I received a grant last cycle. Can I apply again this cycle?**

A: Yes, unless you have not yet submitted a prior cycle's report that is past due, or you failed to execute a formerly funded program. If this is case, please contact us at 919-245-2335.

**Q: What about COVID-19?**

A: Contingency! If your program involves public gathering, the utilization of space that may not be available, or any other unknown variables, make sure you have a Plan B.

**Q: Can I submit multiple applications for different projects?**

Yes.

# F.A.Q.'s

## **Q: What about matching funds? Can my time count towards an in-kind match?**

The dollar value of in-kind donations of goods and services MAY be used for matching funds; however, a “donation” of artists’ time MAY NOT be used as matching funds. We realize your time is a valuable resource and we want you to be paid. The value of an artists’ time is very subjective and hard to evaluate, therefore we’d rather you factor your pay into the expenses of the request.

## **Q: Why must my expenses equal my income?**

If your income was more than your expenses, then it would be a revenue-generating project, which is not the intention of this grant program.

If your expenses were more than your income, questions arise regarding the project and if it was well thought-out. You don’t want to plan – and our board doesn’t want to fund – a project that results in financial loss.

# F.A.Q.'s

## **Q: What if I haven't yet confirmed the participating artists involved in my proposed project?**

Ideally you will have confirmed some of the artists involved and can provide work samples of their work. You can supplement with work samples from past similar project. If you haven't confirmed any artists yet, provide past work samples from similar shows/performances/projects.

# F.A.Q.'s

## Q: What are the main tips you can offer to help me submit a great application?

Be **clear and concise**. A grant application is never a place for flowery language. In addition, don't water down your application with tons of work samples; rather, include several of the highest quality examples. Quality is much more important than quantity!

**Try new things**. Generally, the OCAC board prefers to fund new, innovative projects each year rather than the same project multiple times or in multiple forms.

If your project will take place at a public location or require the involvement of community partners, make sure to get **letters of support** so the panel knows you have their partnership!

# QUESTIONS?

Need help? Have questions? Confused?

**Katie Murray, Director**

[kmurray@orangecountync.gov](mailto:kmurray@orangecountync.gov)

919-245-2335