

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES 2016 - 2017

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is Friday, July 15 by 5 pm. Email application including all attachments to dsilver@intot-hearts.org. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Organizational Support Grant is designed to help carry out the Arts Council's mission, which is: "By efficiently and effectively raising funds and making grants, working to strengthen our broad array of arts resources and offerings, and promoting the arts, The Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County is creating an environment in which the arts flourish and enrich the quality of life in Forsyth and the surrounding counties."

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Organizational Support Grant is an evaluative program that rewards organizations demonstrating artistic and organizational excellence with financial support for operating and administrative costs. Grants are awarded to arts and cultural organizations of all disciplines with annual actual revenues of over \$150,000 that meet high standards in the quality of their programs and services, level of community involvement, administrative capacity and fiscal responsibility.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Information Session: An information session will be held in the Hanes Conference Room, Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts, 251 N. Spruce St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101 on **Monday, June 6 at 12 pm**

Application Deadline: Friday, July 15 by 5 pm

Panel Review & Interviews with applicants: August 1-12

Board Final Approval: Wednesday, August 24

Award Notification Meetings with applicants: September 1-15

Funding Period: October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

WHO MAY APPLY

Eligible Applicants

- Organizations must have consistently produced arts & cultural programs and demonstrated organizational stability for a minimum of 5 years
- Organizations primary residence and/or service area must be in Forsyth County
- Organizations must have annual revenue of \$150,000 for the past 3 years with diverse revenue streams
- Organizations must have at least one full-time paid staff member
- Organizations must have received an Arts Council Event & Series Grant for at least two out of the past three years
- Organizations must be an Arts Council Member Organization with 501c3

If you are a first time applicant please contact Dara Silver, Grant Program Manager at 336-747-1426 to verify your eligibility.

REVIEW PROCESS

Upon receipt of the application the following process will occur:

Arts Council staff will conduct an administrative review of the submitted applications for completeness and compliance with requirements.

Arts Council staff will schedule a day of panel interviews with the applicant. Interviews will be approximately 30 minutes in length.

The Grant Panel will review all applications prior to the panel meeting and interviews. A lead reader from the grant panel will be assigned to each application.

Panel members will assess the application using the Evaluation Criteria outlined in the subsequent section.

Arts Council staff will compile panelists scores and schedule a subsequent meeting with panelists to review scores.

The Grant Panel will then make funding recommendations to The Arts Council Board of Trustees.

Upon approval of the Grant Panel's recommendations by the Board, Arts Council Staff will contact applicants to let them know their status with funding recommendation. Staff will schedule a meeting with all applicants to go over feedback.

EVALUATION CRITERIA - BASE FUNDING

The Grant Panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria.

Artistic Excellence & Innovation (20% of consideration): the quality & innovation of the art & cultural programming, attract and nurture high quality creative talent, and provide programmatic leadership locally and beyond.

Organizational Efficiency and Management (20% of consideration): the ability to maintain the professional & volunteer leadership to carry out the organization's mission and daily operations, evidence of strong Board governance & engagement, policies and procedures, and strategic planning, as well as diversity amongst Board, Administrative and Programming staff.

Community Engagement & Impact (20% of consideration): the ability to engage and attract diverse audiences, collaborate with other arts and non-arts organizations, youth programs, support jobs, and generate tax revenue.

Financials (40% of consideration): the demonstrated ability to achieve budgeted operating results, evaluation of cash reserves, positive current ratio (current assets/current liabilities), evidence of an active board financial oversight, and evidence of clean audit results.

TOTAL = 100%

ARTS COUNCIL VISION INITIATIVE - MERIT POOL

In addition, the Grant Panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria.

Arts Council Vision Initiative (up to 15 points): strategic alignment with the following priorities for the *City of Arts & Innovation*

- 1) Look the Part:** Residents and visitors alike should identify our community as a creative place without having to be told. Examples include 1) programming that extends beyond our traditional audiences, venues and programming that infuses into the greater context of our community and 2) using the arts as civic conveners to help address community issues.
- 2) Establish Sustainable Support:** Long-term sustainability is found through efficiently aligning and creating synergies within our arts community. Examples include collaborative operating models and shared services, such as facilities, staffing, marketing and ticketing, etc.
- 3) Create an Ethos of Innovation:** Successful organizations find innovative ways to evolve over time to fulfill their mission and respond to the needs of the community. Examples include adaptations in operating, programming, and nontraditional partnerships.

FUNDING & GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The funding recommendations of the Grant Panel will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees of The Arts Council. Base funding may be awarded in up to a two (2) year cycle with the funding period being October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. The Grant Panel reserves the right to award on a one (1) year or two (2) year cycle based on the merits and strength of the application and funding availability. Merit pool (Arts Council Initiative) funding will be evaluated and awarded annually and are separate from the base funding. All award decisions are final upon approval by the Board of Trustees. Continuation of all funding is contingent upon:

- The Arts Council achieving the necessary fundraising goals.
- The Grantee's adherence to reporting requirements as outlined in the OSG Contract.
- Compliance with original grant application requirements, including but not limited to financial performance compared to the financial plan provided in the OSG Application. The Grantee must illustrate and explain any significant variances to the plan.

REPORTING

The organization is responsible to report the following information to The Arts Council.

Quarterly attendance reporting on program statistics including demographics & financial statements to The Arts Council no later than the following dates:

- By October 15, 2016 (for the period of July 1 - September 30, 2016)
- By January 15, 2017 (for the period of October 1 - December 31, 2016)
- By April 15, 2017 (for the period of January 1 - March 31, 2017)
- By July 15, 2017 (for the period of April 1 - June 30, 2017)

An annual financial audit or review is required and must be submitted to The Arts Council.

An Arts and Education Report on organizational education outreach submitted once a year via excel spreadsheet (provided by The Arts Council).

HOW TO APPLY

- 1) **Download and complete** the Organizational Support Grant Application. The grant application is divided into sections that have page limits. Please work within these limits and keep all text within the page parameters.
- 2) **Email** application and attachments (financial excel spreadsheet, audit/review, Board & Staff Roster Form, Arts Council Campaign Form and optional case supporting documentation) to dsilver@intothearts.org by **Friday, July 15 at 5 pm.**