



Small Grant—COVID-19 Emergency Program

Weekly Deadlines

The **Small Grants—COVID-19 Emergency Program** provides grants of up to \$750 for artists and organizations to do art projects online or in other forms during the current shut down of arts venues. This grant is for artists and organizations who have had projects cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. We are striving to encourage the practice of social distancing.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. We will select one to three projects weekly as long as the current situation lasts and funding allows.

Criteria

- The Artistic Vision of the Project
- The Impact of the Project

Applicants must show that they can do the project without needing to violate any public health guidelines. For example, no in-person activities are allowed. Artists may only work with each other virtually.

Funding cannot be used for an already ARAC-funded project.

Your project must be completed and grant funds spent by June 30, 2021.

Eligibility

Organizations

Arts organizations in the following Arrowhead counties: Aitkin, Cook, Carlton, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, or St. Louis.

What Kind of Organizations?

- State-registered and federally-recognized non-profit, tax-exempt organizations with a focus on the arts.
- Your organization must be an arts producing, arts presenting, or artist service agency, dedicated primarily to the arts. "Primarily" is defined as more than 75% of your organization's activities and budget must be solely dedicated to the arts.
- The majority of your programming, services, or activities must take place in Minnesota, and must primarily serve and engage Minnesota audiences and participants.
- Your organization must have a history of at least one year of arts-related programs and services prior to applying.
- Your organization must have at least one paid or designated volunteer staff person.

This information can be made available in the following alternative formats: Braille, large print, and audio tape. We also can help your group find a language interpreter to translate these guidelines. To accommodate your request, the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council will need at least 10 working days.

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council
The Ordean Building
424 West Superior Street, Suite 104
Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-0952 or 800-569-8134
info@aracouncil.org
MN Relay Service 1-800-627-3529

- Local chapters of state or national organizations are only eligible to apply if they are administratively independent.

If your group has not yet received non-profit, tax-exempt status, you may apply by using a non-profit organization, accredited school, tribal government, or other unit of government as a fiscal sponsor. For information on how to use a Fiscal Sponsor, see the [Fiscal Sponsor Guidelines](#) page on our website, or contact us directly.

Individuals

To be eligible to apply for this program, you must be at least eighteen years old, a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status, and be a resident of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, or St. Louis County for at least six months, and remain a Minnesota resident for the duration of the project. Individuals enrolled in arts-related degree programs are INELIGIBLE to apply.

Coordination with Minnesota State Arts Board Support

Artists seeking financial support from both ARAC and the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) may do so only after consulting with ARAC staff.

Organizations currently receiving Operating Support from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB) are not eligible to apply to this or any other ARAC program, though they may serve as an eligible group's fiscal sponsor or partner. Past ARAC grant recipients with an overdue, unaccepted, or falsified final report are ineligible to apply.

How Many ARAC Grants Can an Individual Receive in One Year?

Individuals

In a single ARAC fiscal year (July 1-June 30), you may receive one grant from each

eligible program, as long as they are each for separate projects.

Organizations

In a single ARAC fiscal year (July 1-June 30), an organization can receive grant funding of **up to \$20,000 total** from applications reviewed in all eligible programs.

What Kinds of Things are INELIGIBLE for Funding?

- Any public health guideline is violated.
- The project attempts to influence any state or federal legislation
- The request includes making improvements to the applicant's private property
- The activity involves out-of-state travel.
- The project requires excessive entry or exhibition fees, includes tuition, fees or work toward a degree
- The project primarily involves developing school curriculum plans or teaching materials
- The project is primarily intended to support teaching related activities that will advance your teaching career
- The project promotes religious socialization
- The project was once supported by state general fund appropriations
- The project is designed for a private audience and is not open to the general public
- The project is for capital improvement or construction
- The funds are requested to purchase more than \$600 worth of equipment or to purchase real property
- The funds are requested for general operating support
- The funds are requested for a project that serves as a benefit or fundraiser

Note: ARAC has attempted to provide a thorough and clear articulation of its eligibility rules, but it reserves the right to declare an application ineligible for reasons not explicitly stated here. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please contact the office. Grantees are responsible for complying with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in relation to the use of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

Tips on Applying for Grants

- If you have any questions, or if you are a first-time applicant, you are encouraged to contact ARAC staff at 218-722-0952, 800-569-8134, or grants@aracouncil.org.
- ARAC staff can review your grant application if you request that review two weeks or more before the grant deadline. Staff assistance in no way implies your grant request will be funded.
- Please review our website for our Grants FAQ.

Grant Questions

This COVID-19 Grant is for artists and organizations who have had projects cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

Questions:

- What project was delayed or postponed due to COVID-19?
- What do you propose to do?
- What impact on the public do you think it will have?
- How will you know that you have been successful?
- How will you assure that public health guidelines are followed?
- Please explain how exactly you would spend the money?

We may contact you to ask additional questions.

You'll be asked to attach an artistic resume.

Optional Questions:

- Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself or your proposed project?

What happens after I apply?

1. The staff reviews all applications and materials for completeness and eligibility.
2. The staff makes a recommendation of funding.
3. Applicants will be notified via email of the decision. Successful applicants will be assigned a grant agreement and a final report form. The final report must be completed and submitted within thirty days of completion of the project. Applicants must receive approval from ARAC in writing for any major changes to their proposed project.
4. The Board's funding decisions may be appealed solely on alleged procedural errors. An applicant must request an appeal within thirty days of notification of the Board decision. A board subcommittee, consisting of at least three members appointed by the ARAC chair, will consider any appeals. The subcommittee reports its findings and recommendations to the full ARAC Board for action.

Our website includes tip sheets about:

- **Applying for grants generally**
- **How to fill out our budget document**
- **How to use our Foundant grant website**



About Us

Mission: The Arrowhead Regional Arts Council (ARAC) seeks to facilitate and encourage local arts development. This mission statement grows from a conviction that the arts improve the quality of life in the region.

Legislative Mandate: ARAC is one of eleven regional arts councils designated by the State of Minnesota "to make final decisions on the use of legislative appropriations for local/regional arts development." ARAC is charged to assess the needs of the seven counties in the Arrowhead Region and to plan and administer programs and services based on its assessment.

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Mandate: ARAC receives funding from the Legacy Amendment which was appropriated by the State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. The intent of this funding is to support and create access to the arts for artists, arts organizations, and communities; to support arts education for Minnesotans of all ages; and to support diverse ethnic and cultural arts traditions represented in this state.

NOTES:

