

Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs



The Blockbuster & Special Events Fund



Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council Mission: To elevate Central Florida's arts and culture to that befitting a diverse, world-class community.

Blockbuster & Special Events Fund Mission: To encourage marquee arts and cultural blockbuster events in Orange County -- The Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council will request that the Orange County Board of County Commissioners designate funds each year to build a sum to provide a large amount of capital for a project that meets the guiding principles set forth below.

Blockbuster Special Event Definition: *A Blockbuster Special Event is defined as an arts and cultural event that sustains exceptional and widespread popularity and achieves enormous public participation.*

The determination to be made with respect to funding events from the Blockbuster Fund will be based upon four guiding principles as set forth below:

- The event shall be of a nature that will result in regional, statewide, and national or international attendance that is planned to result in significant attendance of at least 50,000. Up to two years of advance planning are preferred to result in this extraordinary attendance.
- The event shall include significant participation with local arts organizations. Collaboration with and among the local arts and culture providers is important to the citizens of Orange County.
- The event proposal must be financially feasible. Each proposal shall provide details of its process, finances and impact. While "in-kind gifts" are a component of financial feasibility, actual cash sponsorship will be considered as part of the analysis.
- The event proposers must have a demonstrated background of successfully handling significant events.

Applicant must be a nonprofit organization that demonstrates their history of and capacity to successfully design and implement an event of this magnitude. Prior grantees shall be considered, as will requests for multi-year funding. Applicants may also receive funding from the Arts & Cultural Affairs Cultural Tourism program, provided the funding is for a separate and distinct project from the Blockbuster & Special Events request.

Appointments must be made with Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs, for initial discussions. When an applicant has developed a solid business plan, has defined milestones for investment, and has a refined proposal ready, they will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Blockbuster & Special

Events Committee. If the Blockbuster & Special Events Committee feels the project has potential, they will arrange for a presentation to the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council for future consideration. Blockbuster & Special Events Committee or Advisory Council may request additional information or presentations to arrive at a funding recommendation. Final approval comes from the Board of County Commissioners.

Any successful applicant will be required to sign a contract with Orange County's fiduciary, United Arts of Central Florida. The agreement details grants-management requirements that ensure the funds are being properly used, and reported on, including a timeline of milestones, collaborative partnerships, event revenue and expenditures, marketing and attendance outcomes, etc.

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Blockbuster & Special Events Guidelines, V6, for approval by Advisory Council 5/15/24, Approved by Funding & Standards 5/1/24, rev. by committee 4/23/24.