

2025 Diversity in the Arts Funding Opportunity Guidelines



The Diversity in the Arts Grant Program provides operating support funding to art, science, and history organizations that are BIPOC/ ALAANA- Centered. This funding process provides intentional investments into the growth and stability of organizations that represent, serve and celebrate the culturally diverse communities of Central Florida. The Diversity in the Arts grant program is designed as pathway, preparing organizations for United Arts Operating Support Program, as well as other state, regional, and national grant opportunities.

Funding Opportunity

There are up to ten (10) two-year grants available for this program. The award amount is set at **\$10,000 per year** to support the year-round operations of the applicant organization in meeting its mission. This grant program funds operating expenses include overhead costs such as salaries, artist stipends, rent, software, insurance, utilities, marketing and fundraising, and other costs that “keep the lights on”.

To ensure this new program supports its intended audience, applicants must demonstrate their organization is BIPOC/ ALAANA-centered (see below). If the interested, applicant organization does not fit this requirement, look to [the General Operating Support Funding Opportunity](#). Applicant organizations can apply to either the Diversity in the Arts program or General Operating Support. This grant is competitive and there may be applications of merit that do not receive funding.

Important Dates & Decision Making

- Application Open: Friday, August 2, 2024
- Application Deadline: **Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5pm**
 - Application courtesy review deadline: Monday, September 9, 2024, at 5pm
 - Staff question deadline: Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 3pm

BIPOC/ALAANA-centered organization

An organization with a mission and programming that is explicitly reflective of a community or communities of color and where the board, staff, artists, and collaborators include a significant representation of that community. A BIPOC/ALAANA-centered organization is defined by the following organizational characteristics

- A Primary mission, intentions, practices are BY, FOR, and ABOUT art, heritages, histories, cultures and communities of color

AND

- Executive Leader (Executive Director, Managing Director, Artistic Director, CEO & President) identifies as BIPOC/ALAANA

OR

- Board is at least 50% BIPOC/ALAANA- identifying individuals

OR

- Staff is at least 50% BIPOC/ALAANA-identifying individuals

BIPOC – An acronym that stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Color

ALAANA – An acronym that stands for African, Latin American, Asian, Arab, Native American. This is an acronym for Asian, Latina/o/x/e, African, Arab, and Native American intended to be inclusive of any individual, culture, community, or arts organization from these racial/ethnic identity groups.

Organizational Eligibility

- Be registered as a 501(c)3 organization and in good standing with the [State of Florida Division of corporations](#) and [the IRS](#).
- Applicant organization's primary mission is focused on Arts and culture, history, or science
- Applicant Organization's administrative headquarters is in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County
- Applicant Organization's programming primarily takes place in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties
- Local governing board with most of its members located in Lake, Orange Osceola or Seminole Counties
- Applicant Organization has a checking account with a licensed financial institution
- Completed at least one year of operations, providing cultural programming
 - Programming is defined as productions, presentation, or instruction of performing, visual, literary, or media/ digital arts, the sciences, or history and heritage
- Provide year-round programming that is open to the public
 - Year-round programming is defined as at least 4 public facing events, workshops, productions, exhibitions, etc.
- Must provide equal access to opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, geography, age, varying abilities, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, citizenship status, or socioeconomic status

Organizations that do not meet the criteria may be eligible for other United Arts programs <https://unitedartsfl.org/grants/>.

Organizations are NOT eligible if they are:

- A current Operating Support Grantee
- A public or private entity governed by a county, municipality, school district, community college, college, university, or an agency of state government
- Media companies (TV/print)
 - Nonprofit, Public radio stations are eligible.
- Faith-based organizations – eligible for project grants
- Fraternal or sports organizations
- Political causes, candidates, organizations, or campaigns
- Hospitals, health, and disease-specific organizations
- Organizations that are a local arm of a state or national organization
- Organizations that are adjuncts to for-profit organizations
 - "Friends of" organizations are eligible to apply only in lieu of the parent nonprofit organization

In all cases, final eligibility decisions are made by United Arts staff. Each organization is limited to one Diversity in the Arts Application per funding cycle. Approval of funding carries with it no assurance of continued funding with future applications. Applicants must be in good standing with any prior grant reporting if applicable. Organizations that do not meet all criteria may be eligible for other United Arts programs.

Operations and Programming Eligibility

This grant program This grant program funds both operating expenses (which could include overhead such as salaries, rent, technology, etc.) and programmatic expenses that support the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Grant dollars ***cannot*** be used for any of the following activities:

- Capital expenditures (including acquisitions or equipment), or any building, renovation, or remodeling of facilities
- Deficit reduction, bad debts, contingencies, fines and penalties, interest payments, litigation costs, or any other comparable financial costs
- Contributions to cash reserves and/or endowment funds
- Lobbying or attempting to influence federal, state, or local legislation
- Awards, prizes, or scholarships for use outside the applicant's programming
- Regranting, contributions, or donations
- Fundraising events, activities, or related expenses (e.g. benefits, dinners, sporting events, etc.)
- Projects benefiting for-profit organizations
- Travel outside of Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole Counties
- Private events closed to the public and activities restricted to an organization's membership
- Festival costs not related to the arts, sciences or history

Decision process

- Staff review of applications: Friday, September 20, 2024 – October 4, 2024
- Independent Panelist review of application October – November 2024
- Panel Meetings: November 2024
- Board Approval and notification of funding: December 2024
- Grant Activity Period: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026.

Acknowledgement



The Diversity in the Arts Program is partially supported by Duke Energy.

United Arts Staff Contact

Elyse Jardine, Sr. Director of Community Outreach

Elyse@UnitedArtsCFL.org & 407-790-7844

Applicant-facing tutorials on how to use and navigate the United Arts Grant Portal can be found [here](#).

Grantee Requirements (During the Grant Period)

- **Request Permission for Changes:** Significant programming or budget changes must be requested in advance; changes may or may not affect the grant award amount. Grant funds that are unused by December 31 must be returned to United Arts.
- **Notification:** Grantees must keep elyse@unitedartscfl.org on their email list, renew required insurance policies when they expire, and notify United Arts of any contact changes or changes in IRS tax-exempt status. United Arts will add grantees to its email list, including resources and opportunities.
- **Legal:** Grantees must comply with fair labor standards and a drug-free workplace; maintain a finance committee and independent audit committee of the board (per the Sarbanes-Oxley Act) and comply with PCI (see www.PCICompliance.org) and the US Patriot Act. Grantees must pay their obligations.
- **Electronic payment:** Grantees must sign up for payment via ACH (electronic deposit), whereby funds will be directly deposited into the grantee's business account. This provides prompt delivery of grant funds by alleviating mail time and bank holds.
- **Inclusion:** Grantees must provide equal access and opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, geography, age, varying abilities, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, citizenship status, or socioeconomic status. The make-up of the staff, board, audience, volunteers, artists, scientists, historians, and other decision-makers involved with grantee organizations should be inclusive of the diversity of the community and compatible with the organization's mission.
- **Acknowledgment:** Grantees must acknowledge the grant in all publicity and materials (whether printed, online, verbal, or other), with the United Arts logo and the statement "(Name of Grantee Organization) is funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, your local agency for the arts." United Arts may publicize the grant using quotes and photos from applications and reports. Organizations based in or providing the majority of programming in the City of Orlando and/or Orange County will also be required to include those logos.
- **AEP Survey:** Grantees must participate in the Americans for the Arts' "Arts and Economic Prosperity" Impact Survey (which occurs every five years) to maintain eligibility for grants.
- **Recordkeeping:** Grantees must keep information (including description and photos of the funded programming, press or publicity about the programming, including use of logos or acknowledgment statement, and financial records) for the final report. Also, keep records about the grant activities and financials for at least five years after the grant period is completed; such records must be available for audit by United Arts representatives.