

UNITED ARTS

CENTRAL FLORIDA

FY26 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Application Window: October 3, 2025 – December 14, 2025

Grant Activity Period: April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027

Community Impact Grants provide competitive funding up to \$5,000 to support specific, relevant, and meaningful arts, history, and science cross-sector collaborations between an arts-based nonprofit and at least one non-arts-based organization to create experiences of value to the communities those organizations serve. For the purpose of this funding opportunity, United Arts defines “community” as any group that your organization is intentionally working to serve (e.g. members, students, artists, participants, audience, geographic community, ethnic heritage, or cultural traditions).

This change in this grant program aligns with United Arts’ desire to create a vibrant community through art, culture, history, and science. Funds may be used for intentional and established collaborations between two organizations from different backgrounds. Collaborations should reflect one area of society that the arts have a positive impact on mentioned in the Americans for the Arts [Arts Impact Explorer](#).

Community Impact Grants:

- Have a cross-sector partnership that shows a meaningful collaboration between the arts and another sector.
- Does not fund seasonal support. A meaningful collaboration is intended for this grant.
- Includes a defined project with a meaningful relationship.
- Increase access to and participation in arts, culture, history, or science programming within our communities.
- Act as a catalyst for positive change through arts and culture-based creative community development.

Deadlines & Important Dates

- Application Open: Friday, October 3, 2025
- Application Deadline: Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 11:59 pm
- Last Day for Staff Courtesy Review: Monday, December 1, 2025 @ 5:00 pm
- Last Day for Staff Questions: Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 3:00 pm
- Community Project Grant Review Panels: Mid-February 2026
 - Applicants (both organizations) are invited and encouraged to participate in the panel review meeting to talk to panelists and answer any questions that may arise. The dates and times will be provided ahead of time to applicants who projects qualify for this cycle.
- Board Approval: Mid-March 2026
- Notification of Award: Mid-March 2026
- Funding Period: April 1, 2026, – March 31, 2027
- Impact Report Due: May 1, 2027 (or 30 days after the project ends)

Maximum Request Amount: \$5,000

- Funding is competitive; only 10 projects will be awarded.
 - Not all projects of merit are able to be funded.
- United Arts funds may be used to support eligible project-related activities within the one-year grant period.
- Applicants will be notified if they include ineligible expenses in their project budget/application.

Organizational Eligibility

Applicant Organization:

- Applicant organizations must have current 501(c)3 status and current good standing with the state of Florida Division of Corporations as a nonprofit organization. United Arts will verify status at www.irs.gov and sunbiz.org.
- The nonprofit 501(c)3 must be located in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties (United Arts uses the principal

address listed on an organization's W-9 and Sunbiz registration).

- This is not required, but it is highly suggested to register for a Unique Entity ID as it is often a requirement on state, city, and outside funding opportunities.
- Faith-based organizations who have 501(c)3 status as long as the event is a non-faith-based program open to any segment of the population.
- A public or private entity governed by an agency of the state government (Can be the collaborative partner i.e., public works)
- Applicant organizations must be in good standing with any prior United Arts grant or contract reporting.

Collaborative Organization:

- The Collaborative partner must be from another sector than the applicant
- Does not have to be a 501(c)3 – examples include neighborhood associations, public health departments, and community centers, libraries and more
- Located in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties
- Be in good standing with United Arts grant or contract reporting (if applicable)

Organization Eligibility Restrictions - Organizations are **NOT eligible if they are:**

- Organizations that are adjuncts to for-profit organizations. ("Friends of" organizations are eligible to apply only in lieu of the parent nonprofit organization).
- Fraternal or sports organizations.
- Political causes, candidates, organizations, or campaigns.

In all cases, final eligibility decisions are made by United Arts staff. **Approval of a previous project grant funding does not guarantee funding in subsequent years.**

Project Eligibility

Projects based in the arts, culture, history, or science that take place in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties and are open to the public. Exhibits, performances, festivals, arts education, outreach programs, and art-based community development activities are examples of typical projects. Professional artists must be involved in the planning and execution of each project. Social and Human Service Organizations must partner with arts organizations.

Cross-sector projects must show a meaningful collaboration between an arts organization and another organization from a differing sector. These projects and collaborations must reflect the "Arts & ____" intersections in the [Arts Impact Explorer](#). Examples of projects in each intersection can be found on the Arts Impact Explorer website by clicking on one of the sectors then "Learn More".

Funds must be used during the course of the project and are not considered a contract for services where a partner is paid for a one-time service. This is a meaningful collaboration designed to create real community impact between the arts and another sector.

Unallowable activities and costs this grant cannot fund:

- This grant does not cover season expenses
- Projects benefiting for-profit organizations.
- Projects outside of Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole counties.
- Costs incurred before April 1, 2026 and after March 30, 2027.
- Alcoholic beverages, or refreshments for hospitality purposes
- Voter registration drives, fundraisers, or galas.
- Lobbying, including activities intended to influence the outcome of elections or influence government officials regarding pending legislation, either directly or through specific lobbying appeals to the public.
- Awards to individuals or organizations to honor or recognize achievement.
- Purchase and/or use of gift cards and gift certificates to support project costs.
- Cannot be used to cover nonsecular faith-based project expenses

Grant Payment Schedule

Grantees must sign an Award Agreement from United Arts and provide new or updated payment information. 90% of funds will be issued once Award Agreements are in place and payment information is up to date. The Final Report is due 30 days after the final project, and all expenditures must be completed by this date. The final 10% of funds will be released as reimbursement upon approval of the Final Report.

Requirements During the Grant Period

- Acknowledgement: Funded organizations must acknowledge the grant in all project publicity and materials (whether printed, online, verbal, or other), with the United Arts logo and statement “This project is funded in part by United Arts of Central Florida, your local agency for the arts”.
- Request Permission for Changes: Significant project or budget changes must be requested in advance of the change. Changes may or may not reduce the award amount, requiring a return of grant funds to United Arts. Contact cameron@unitedartscfl.org with questions or to discuss a potential change.
- Notification: During the project, grantees must keep cameron@unitedartscfl.org on their email list and notify United Arts of any changes to their contact information.
- Publicity: Organizations are strongly encouraged to post their events on our website when the dates and other details have been set. United Arts promotes posted programs through our email newsletter and, if at least two months in advance, the calendar section of [Artistry Magazine](#). To add your event, go to <https://artsinorlando.com/>

