

UNITED ARTS

CENTRAL FLORIDA

FY27 Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Application Window: October 12, 2026 – December 6, 2026

Grant Activity Period: April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028

Community Impact Grants provide competitive funding of up to \$5,000 to support specific, relevant, and meaningful cross-sector collaborations between an arts-based nonprofit and at least one non-arts-based organization, creating experiences of value for the communities served by those organizations. For 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).

Funds may be used for intentional collaborations between two organizations from different backgrounds. Collaborations should reflect one area of society where the arts have a positive impact, as mentioned in the Americans for the Arts’ [Arts Impact Explorer](#).

Community Impact Grants support projects that:

- Demonstrate an intentional cross-sector collaboration between an arts, culture, history, or science organization and an organization from another sector
- Include a clearly defined project designed and implemented through the partnership
- Increase access to and participation in arts, culture, history, or science programming
- Use arts and culture to support positive community impact and creative community development

Cross-Sector vs. Cross-Disciplinary

Projects must involve a cross-sector collaboration, not simply a cross-disciplinary partnership.

Cross-sector collaboration brings together organizations from different sectors to work toward a shared goal. For example, a music organization might partner with a hospital to provide music-based programming for older adults with dementia.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration brings together organizations or individuals from different disciplines within the same broader sector. For example, a science center partnering with a museum to offer a STEAM workshop would be cross-disciplinary.

For this grant program, the applicant may be any eligible nonprofit organization. The proposed project must involve collaboration between an arts, culture, history, or science organization and a partner from a different sector. Either organization may serve as the applicant. Partnerships between two arts, culture, history, or science organizations are not eligible.

Deadlines & Important Dates

- Application Open: Monday, October 12, 2026
- Application Deadline: Sunday, December 6, 2026 @ 11:59 pm
- Last Day for Staff Courtesy Review: Friday, November 20, 2026 @ 5:00 pm
- Last Day for Staff Questions: Thursday, December 3, 2026 @ 3:00 pm
- Community Project Grant Review Panels: Mid-February 2027
- Board Approval: Mid-March 2027
- Notification of Award: Mid-March 2027
- Funding Period: April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028
- Impact Report Due: 30 days after the project ends
 - If project ends March 31, 2028, Impact Report will be due by May 1, 2028

Maximum Request Amount: \$5,000

- Funding is competitive; only 10 projects will be awarded.
 - Not all projects of merit can 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

Eligible Applicant Organizations

The applicant organization must:

- Be a current 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing with the Florida Division of Corporations. United Arts will verify organization's status through the IRS and Sunbiz.
- Be located in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County. United Arts will determine location using the principal address listed on the organization's W-9 and Sunbiz registration.
- Be in good standing with all prior United Arts grant or contract requirements, including reports.

Faith-based organizations with 501(c)(3) status may apply for non-faith-based programs that are open to the public.

Organizations selected for funding must have or obtain a Unique Entity ID before receiving grant funds.

Eligible Collaborative Partners

The collaborative partner must:

- Represent a different sector from the application organization.
- Be located in or serve communities within Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County.
- Be in good standing with any prior United Arts grant or contract requirements, if applicable.

Collaborative partners do not have to be 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Eligible partners may include:

- Neighborhood associations
- Public health departments
- Community centers
- Libraries
- Schools or government agencies
- Individual artists or teaching artists
- Other organizations or individuals representing a sector different from the applicant organization

An individual artist or teaching artist may serve as a collaborative partner but may not apply as the lead applicant.

Ineligible Applicant Organizations

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Organizations that operate as adjuncts to for-profit organizations. A "Friends of" organization may apply only in place of its parent nonprofit organization.
- Fraternal or sports organizations.
- Political causes, candidates, organizations, or campaigns.
- Government agencies and other public entities. These entities may participate as collaborative partners but may not serve as the applicant organization.

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

- Be based in arts, culture, history, or science.
- Take place in Lake, Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County.
- Be open or accessible to the community identified in the application.

- Be designed and implemented through an intentional collaboration between the applicant and a partner from a different sector.
- Use arts, culture, history, or science to support positive community impact.

Eligible projects may include exhibits, performances, festivals, educational programs, outreach, activities, and creative community development projects.

The applicant must be an eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The collaborative partner must represent a different sector and may be an eligible organization, individual artist, or teaching artist. Partnerships between two arts, culture, history, or science organizations are not eligible.

Projects should align with one or more of the cross-sector areas identified in the [Arts Impact Explorer](#).

Grant funds must support the collaborative project and may not be used solely to pay a partner for a one-time service.

The partnership should involve shared planning or implementation rather than a standard vendor or contractor relationship.

Ineligible activities and expenses

- 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, 2027, and after March 30, 2028.
- 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 the funds will be issued once the Award Agreements have been signed and the grantee has provided the ACH information. The Final Report is due 30 days after the project is completed. 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/>