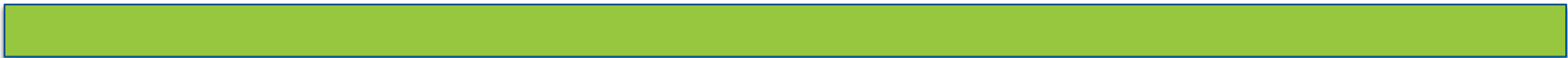# Grants Workshop

Mission and Vision

- **Mission**: The Mission of the Tennessee Arts Commission is to cultivate the arts for the benefit of all Tennesseans and their communities.

- **Vision**: A Tennessee where the arts inspire, connect and enhance everyday lives.

Specialty License Plate Program Promotions

FY24 Grants Impact

- $12.6 million in annual/rolling grants
- 1,340 total grants
- 840 nonprofits, schools, and local governments benefitting communities
- 375 Student Ticket Subsidy grants to pay for buses, tickets and artists
- All 95 counties
- 13.2m adults, Tennesseans, and tourists in person
- 2.9m children and youth engaged in person
- 9.2m adults, Tennesseans, and tourists engaged virtually
- 1.1m children and youth engaged virtually
- $25.8m in Federal Recovery Fund grants

*In the past 6 years (FY19-FY24),
the Commission has made approximately
5,500 grants and invested
more than **$48 million**,
excluding Covid Recovery Funds,
in communities across Tennessee.*

Commission Programs

- Strategic Plan

- Governor's Arts Awards

- TN Folklife Institute

- Creative Aging

- Poetry Out Loud

Arts & Economic Prosperity 6

Tennessee's nonprofit arts and culture sector supports jobs, generates local and state revenue, and attracts audiences to communities across the state.

Arts Drive Tourism & Retain Local Dollars
AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE
15.9 MILLION
RESIDENT 90.8%   NON-RESIDENT 9.2%

Economic Impact Beyond Dollars: VOLUNTEERISM
64,000 VOLUNTEERS = $54 MILLION
1.9 MILLION VALUE DONATED HOURS

$1.36 BILLION
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
$617 M + $746 M

$1.09 BILLION
LOCAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
$671 M + $423 M

$345 MILLION
TOTAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE
$213 M + $132 M
FEDERAL   STATE/LOCAL

23,465
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JOBS
13,358 + 10,107

■ Nonprofit Organizations ■ Audiences ■ Total

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION
Cultivate. Create. Participate.

Americans for the Arts

ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Grant Eligibility

501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations

Entities of Local Government

Public K-12 Schools

Individuals

Grant Types

Project Support

Operating Support

Individual Artist
Fellowships

Project-based Grants

- **Based on or delineated by**
  - Clearly defined project goals and measurable outcomes
  - Targeted toward specific populations or groups
  - Rural or Urban Counties
- **Some opportunities include**
  - Arts Project Support and Rural Arts Project Support
  - Arts Education grants
  - Arts Access
  - Rural Arts Facilities Fund

Project-based Grant Examples

A community theatre company in Knox County receives an **Arts Project Support** grant to produce a performance of *Grease* featuring local actors and crew.

--

A museum in Maury County receives an **Arts Access** grant to fund adaptive art classes designed for individuals with disabilities.

--

An organization in Perry County receives an **Arts Education Community Learning** grant to provide after-school writing workshops to community youth.

Operating Support Grant Requirements

Require a Tennessee Arts Commission funding history

Must notify Commission staff that they wish to apply.

Require financial and other documentation (Audits/Form 990)

Some require at least one full-time paid administrator.

Operating Support Grant Examples

- A symphony orchestra in Washington County receives a **Partnership Support** grant to sustain their annual performance series and community outreach programs.

- A small arts organization in Giles County receives a **Small Rural Partnership Support** grant to maintain daily operations and enhance administrative capacity.
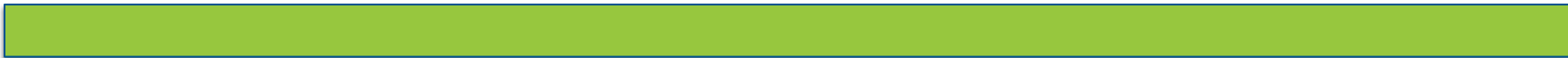
IAF

Individual Artist Fellowship

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Individual Artist Fellowship

- Awards artistic excellence

- Adjudicated by out of state experts

- Based on provided work samples

- Must be a professional artist residing in Tennessee

- Electronically submit work samples that meet published criteria for the category

FY26 Fellowship Categories

Visual Art – Two-Dimensional Work and Mural Arts

Craft

Media – Film and Photography

Dance – Solo Dance, Choreography, or other Movement-based Work

Music – Performance-based or Composition-based Work

Theatre – Acting, Directing, Playwriting or Design

Interdisciplinary Performing Arts

Literary Arts – Fiction, Children's/YA Literature, and Poetry

Annual Grants Timeline

- **November 15, 2024**: Applications Open

- **January 2025**: Application Deadlines

  o Deadline varies by grant program; check specific dates

- **January - February**: Initial Reviews

  o Staff conducts preliminary reviews of applications

- **March - April**: Panel Reviews

  o Public panels evaluate and score applications

- **June**: Award Notifications

  o Award letters sent to successful applicants

- **July**: Grant Activities Begin

  o Approved projects may begin as early as July 1, 2025

Grant Funding

- **Request Amounts**: Applicants will submit funding requests within the specified range for each grant program.

- **Matching Requirements**: Many grants require a financial match from the applicant organization. These matches are typically 1:1, but some may differ.

- **Eligible Expenses**: Grant funds may be used for a variety of purposes, but depending on grant guidelines certain expenses may be ineligible.
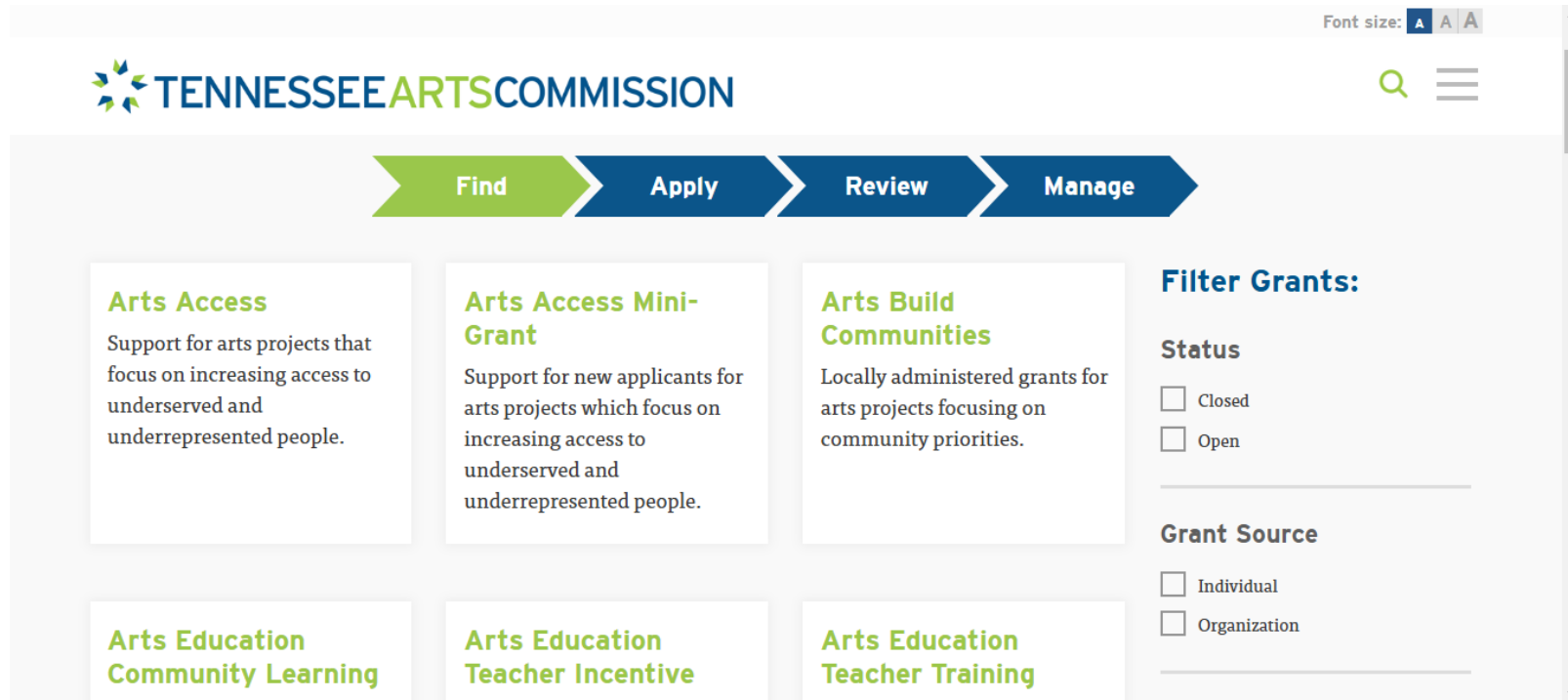
Grant Expectations

- **Grants Management Expectations**: Grantees will be expected to actively manage their grants by submitting required paperwork, requesting funds, providing itemized expenditures, and ensuring timely grant closeout. The Commission has a webpage to help grantees understand these processes.

- **Funding Expectations**: Funding will depend upon an organization's rating in the review process and upon the total amount of funds available to the Commission for grant allocation. Our grant programs are competitive, and most grant requests are not fully funded.

How to Apply

- Find the right opportunity using the Grants Guidelines pages

How to Apply

- Consult with a member of the Commission staff for assistance

- Apply for the grants using the Fluxx online grants system

Application Requirements

Narrative Questions

Required Documents and Organizational Information

Budget Details
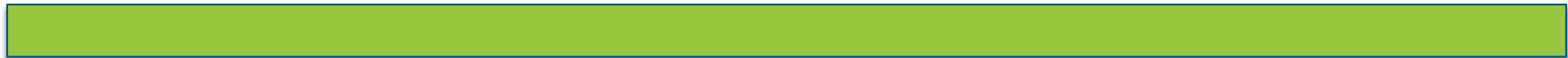
The Panel Process

- **Panel Composition**:
  - Panels typically consist of 4-6 panelists with diverse expertise from across the state, ensuring a broad perspective in the review process. Please consider becoming a panelist!

- **Virtual Panel Meetings**:
  - Panels are open to the public and are held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Applicant attendance is optional but encouraged.

- **Scoring and Criteria**:
  - Panelists score application based on specific criteria, which can be found on the grant guideline pages for each program.

The Panel Process

Panelists' scores are used to rate and rank
applications within each panel,
helping to guide the allocation of funds.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Artistic, Cultural, and/or Educational Value to the Community:**

  - Clearly describe your community's unique needs and how your project addresses them. This is where you should showcase how the arts will positively impact the community. Use specific examples and projected outcomes.

- **Advancing the Organization's Mission:**

  - Demonstrate how the project aligns with your mission and goals. This provides context to reviewers about why this project is meaningful for your organization. Draw clear connections between the project's activities and your core values or strategic objectives.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Responsiveness to Community Interests and Needs:**

  - Show how you actively engaged with your community at the start of the project, including any focus groups or stakeholder meetings, that were used to gather input. Highlight how this feedback shaped your project's design, ensuring it directly addresses identified needs.

- **Support for Artists through Fees, Services, or Benefits:**

  - Clearly outline your approach to artist compensation. If your project involves paid roles, specify payment rates, contracts, and how they were determined to ensure fairness. If your project includes volunteer contributions, explain why this approach is appropriate and how those volunteers are supported or recognized for their contributions.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Advocacy for the Public Value of the Arts:**

  - Write letters or emails to local elected officials to share the importance of your project and invite them to attend your events. Showcase your project's community impact in newsletters or on social media, tagging local leaders. Join organizations like Tennesseans for the Arts to connect with others who champion the arts. By including specific, actionable advocacy efforts, you not only elevate your project's visibility but also strengthen the broader case for the value of the arts in your community.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Comprehensive, Inclusive, and Communicated Planning Procedures:**

  - Demonstrate a thorough and inclusive planning process. Detail how diverse stakeholders, such as community members, artists, or local leaders, were involved from the early stages of the project. Share how their input influenced key decisions and ensured the project reflects community needs. Provide a clear, step-by-step timeline with milestones, deliverables, and responsibilities to show the project is well-structured and achievable. etail planning steps that include a range of stakeholders in decision-making.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Documentation and Evaluation for Future Planning:**

  - Outline a clear and actionable evaluation plan, including specific methods such as surveys, audience feedback, or data collection on attendance and engagement. Highlight how you will measure the project's impact, both quantitatively and qualitatively. If applicable, share past examples of evaluations your organization has conducted and explain how the results influenced future projects or activities.

- **Public and Private Partnerships:**

  - Highlight specific public and private partnerships that directly contribute to your project's goals. For example, mention collaborations with local businesses providing in-kind support, or public agencies offering venues or outreach assistance. Explain how each partner's involvement strengthens your project, such as expanding its reach, reducing costs, or enhancing its impact.

Creating Successful Proposals

- **Financial Stability and Broad Financial Support:**

  - Present a detailed, balanced budget that shows a clear understanding of your project's financial needs. Highlight diverse income sources, such as grants, donations, sponsorships, ticket sales, or in-kind contributions, to demonstrate broad-based community support.Provide a balanced budget with diversified income sources (e.g., grants, donations, earned revenue).

- **Well-Planned, Complete, and Accurate Application:**

  - Take the time to carefully plan and complete every section of the application with clear, concise, and specific answers. Double-check that all required documents, budgets, and supplemental materials are included and formatted correctly. Proofread your application to eliminate errors, typos, or inconsistencies.

Thank you!

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