



GRANT GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS OR GROUPS OF ARTISTS COLLABORATING ON ONE PROJECT

The City of Fort Myers arts and culture grant program has been designed to foster and grow the thriving and eclectic cultural arts community in Southwest Florida. The purpose of the grant program is to activate the City of Fort Myers with exciting and alluring artistic offerings that leave a **LASTING IMPRESSION** on residents and visitors alike. Because arts and culture are the heartbeat of Fort Myers, we seek projects that capture the uniquely charming SWFL flavor through a plethora of artistic mediums and forms. All projects and programs are welcomed, including but not limited to visual arts, fine arts, photography, performing arts, sculpture, cinematic, digital arts and even literary. Creativity is endless and so is the talent in Southwest Florida. The Arts & Culture Division in the City of Fort Myers is entrusted with bringing that talent to the forefront throughout the city.

FUNDING

The maximum funding for each arts grant for a project or program is:

- \$2,500 for an individual artist
- \$8,500 for a group of at least three (3) artists collaborating on one project

An applicant's project is perceived as stronger when granted funds are matched by the grant recipient(s) with funds from earned income, foundations, individual and corporate contributions, government agencies and other organizations. These matching funds can include in-kind goods and services.

CITY OF FORT MYERS ARTS & CULTURE GRANTS GOALS

The grant programs administered by this office strive to:

- Bring expansive and exciting art and culture programs and permanent installations within the City of Fort Myers
- Encourage collaborations to develop larger, expansive and significant programs/projects that leave a **LASTING IMPRESSION**
- Foster a healthy arts and culture community in Fort Myers
- Encourage artistic quality, exploration and program innovation
- Strengthen arts and culture representation throughout city wards, with authentic representation at the neighborhood level
- Appeal to an expansive local audience as well as audiences in neighboring counties
- Promote multicultural inclusion in all aspects of the city's cultural life
- Stimulate increased private support for the arts & culture
- Elevate arts and culture as the economic driver for tourism in Fort Myers
- Invest in local talent to promote a flourishing arts and culture community

ONLY ONE GRANT PER ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL ARTIST WILL BE FUNDED PER YEAR. AN ARTIST MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN ONE GROUP ART PROJECT APPLICATION PER YEAR IN ADDITION TO AN INDIVIDUAL ARTIST APPLICATION.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Artist must live or work within corporate limits of the City of Fort Myers or create/perform work that will make a meaningful contribution to the arts and culture of the City of Fort Myers.
2. Because the grant program is interested in professional and/or pre-professional caliber works, applicants must be no less than 16 years old, and must accompany an affidavit by parent or legal guardian asserting permission
3. Artist must produce interpretive and creative work in artistic disciplines, such as: dance, literature, music, theater, visual arts, performance art, including choreographers, composers, playwrights, poets, writers, and video artists.
4. Be actively engaged in the pursuit of creating and producing works of art.
5. If the artist has received a City of Fort Myers Arts & Culture Grant at any time in the past, then a Post Grant Final Report must have been submitted for that Grant. *Grant recipients who have not completed a Post Grant Final Report for any grant received are not eligible to apply for funding at any time in the future and will be disqualified should they do so.

LIMITATIONS

1. Only one (1) application per artist per grant period. An individual artist may also apply as part of one group project.
2. Individual Artist Grants can be awarded two years in a row. Individual artists who received two sequential grants must take a year off before applying again. Group artists who receive two sequential grants MAY apply each year without limitations. For example, a grant award recipient for years 2021/22 and 2022/23 will not be considered for the 2023/24 grant cycle and may apply again in the 2024/25 grant cycle. **Timely submission of Post Grant Final Report Form for all previous grants is an eligibility requirement.**
3. The following programs and activities are not eligible for grant funding:
 - Student artists whose works will be used toward degree
 - Projects and activities primarily promotional, research-oriented, recreational or therapeutic
4. If the proposed project or activity is a new direction for the applicant, such as work in a new medium or an allied artistic.

GRANTS REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

REVIEW PROCESS

Although the review process varies according to grant category, the process involves a qualitative evaluation. Application materials will be reviewed by the Arts & Culture Division, along with a panel of peers including artists, arts & culture administrators, and community arts & culture representatives who are not applying for a grant, and who will rate according to specific criteria.

Ratings are averaged to reach each applicant's overall rating.

After applications have been rated, the panel makes funding recommendations to the Arts & Culture Division. The grants recipients list will then be presented to the City Council for approval during a regularly scheduled council meeting in June or July. Awards will be announced between June and July

and checks will be sent within 3 weeks of receipt of a signed agreement from the Artist, Artist Group Leader, or organization. Please note that payments for Artist Group projects will be issued in multiple payments in accordance with the signed agreement, to ensure that projects are being delivered.

REVIEW & SCORING CRITERIA

Applications are evaluated based on:

1. Artists of exceptional talent and demonstrated ability to improve their creative skills and enhance their careers.
2. Proposals that meet the City of Fort Myers Art & Culture Grant Goals.
3. Evidence of the applicant's ability to carry out the proposed activity including not only information provided in the application and supporting materials, but also performance realized from prior City arts grants, if any.
4. Artist ability, clarity of proposal and matching support will be considered.

POST-GRANT FINAL REPORT

A Post-Grant Final Report is due at the end of the granting period and must be received in order to be eligible to apply for a grant in any future grant cycles for this program. The post-grant final report will be due by 4:30PM on the last day of April of the cycle year during which the grant was received.