



GRANT GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIZATIONS

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:

- \$10,000 for 501(c)(3) designated organizations

Applicants are **required** to show a match to the requested 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 WILL BE FUNDED PER YEAR.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must be 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit organizations that produce and/or present an arts and cultural program or festival within the City of Fort Myers' corporate limits.
2. Have documented IRS nonprofit, tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. *Applicants with pending 501(c)(3) status are not eligible.*
3. Have completed one year of fiscal operation as a non-profit organization and can provide board-approved financial statements.
4. Be able to provide most recently completed IRS Form 990.
5. Be able to match amount requested on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
6. Applicant organizations may submit only one application.
7. If the organization 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.
8. Units of city or municipal government are ineligible for City of Fort Myers Arts & Culture Grants (i.e. public school, library, city special events department, etc.).
9. Religious Organizations and Churches are ineligible for City of Fort Myers Arts & Culture Grants.

ORGANIZATION GUIDELINES

PROJECT & PROGRAM GRANTS

Project & Program Grants support arts & culture activities, projects and programs that take place ***within the City of Fort Myers*** by the close of April of the grant cycle year. Your description should include:

- Overall goal(s) regarding your project or program
- Objectives or ways in which you will meet the goal(s)
- Specific activities for which you are seeking funding
- Who will carry out those activities
- Time-frame in which the activities will take place
- How the proposed project or program will benefit the community of the City of Fort Myers, being as clear as you can about the impact you expect to have and long-term strategies (If applicable) for sustaining this effort.

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 for financial support from the City of Fort Myers Arts & Culture Grants will be reviewed applying these criteria:

1. Organization's artistic merit.
2. Organization's ability to conduct community outreach.
3. Organization's ability to provide art-related educational value.
4. Proposals that meet the City of Fort Myers Art & Culture Grant Goals.
5. Art-related educational value for Fort Myers residents.
6. 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.
7. Matching support will be considered.

Community Outreach refers to:

- Effectiveness of community involvement as shown by diversity of audience (i.e. affecting a variety of social, economic and ethnic populations)
- Effectiveness at furthering the understanding of an arts and culture form to a diverse audience, representing a variety of social, economic and racial populations
- Representation and participation by special audiences, including economically deprived, children, the elderly, the disabled and geographically under-served neighborhoods
- Innovation in programming to reach new and special audiences, including collaborative programs with other groups
- Effectiveness of marketing efforts

Art-related educational value refers to:

- Organizations and Projects & Programs that promote the arts and culture in education.
- Organizations and Projects & Programs that provide educational opportunities for arts and culture to youth and adults.
- Organizations and Projects & Programs that enhance arts and culture appreciation for all citizens.

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.