

ARTS NEW ORLEANS
Community Arts Grants Guidelines
for Year 2027 More Joy Grant

Activity Period: January 1 – December 31, 2027

DEADLINE: JUNE 12, 2026



Arts New Orleans



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

Staff Contact:

Collins Cox

Grantmaking Specialist

grants@artsneworleans.org

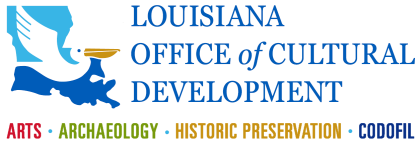
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COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

Community Arts Grants are made possible with funding from the City of New Orleans.

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Contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and grants from the Louisiana State Arts Council, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Office of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts support Arts New Orleans. Specific programs are funded through contracts with the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana, and other public and private agencies.



WHO WE ARE

The Arts Council of New Orleans, dba Arts New Orleans, envisions New Orleans as a city that integrates **Art in Everything**, where arts and culture play a pivotal role in all policy, planning, and placemaking.

We believe in the power of arts and culture to actively improve the quality of life in New Orleans and that the full spectrum of benefits should be equally accessible to all residents. Arts New Orleans advocates for expanded investment in the arts and culture ecosystem. We provide artists and culture bearers with vital training and economic opportunities while recognizing our commitment to equity in our sector and city.

For more information, visit our website at www.artsneworleans.org.

GRANTS CALENDAR

Grant activity period: January 1 – December 31, 2027

May 11, 2026

Grant guidelines link available:
<https://www.artsneworleans.org/grantmaking/community-arts-grants/>.

Applications link available:
<https://artsneworleans.submittable.com/submit>.

May 19, 2026

Virtual grant workshop, more info on page 5.

May 26, 2026

In-person grant workshop, more info on page 5.

June 2 and June 4, 2026

Application support sessions, more info on page 5.

June 12, 2026

Grant Deadline: Online applications must be submitted through Submittable by 11:59pm:
<https://artsneworleans.submittable.com/submit>.

June – July 2026

Grant panels review applications and make funding recommendations.

August 2026

Applicants may email grants@artsneworleans.org for preliminary funding recommendations and panel comments.

September 2026

Preliminary recommendation letters sent via Submittable.

November 2026

Grant recommendations are presented to the Mayor, CAO, and City Council for approval as part of the city budget for 2027.

December 2026

Official grant award letters sent via Submittable.

January 2027

Compliance session held for new grantees and those with new staff responsible for grant management.

January 1 – December 31, 2027

Grant activity period.

January 31, 2027

Deadline for grantees to complete grant contracts.

January 31, 2028

Final report deadline.

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

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Program Goals

The Community Arts Grants (CAG) Program supports a broad range of arts activities that take place in and impact the residents of Orleans Parish. Applicants must be domiciled in Orleans Parish. The CAG program has two grant categories: More Joy and New Orleans as Cultural Capital. More Joy provides one-year project grants for grassroots parading traditions and similar activities. The More Joy category helps to support projects usually done by indigenous cultural groups in New Orleans, including Black Masking Indians, Mardi Gras Indians, and Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs. New Orleans as Cultural Capital grants provide two-year operating support grants to nonprofit arts organizations with 501(c)(3) status that carry out quality arts programming that impacts our citizens and visitors. **This year, applications are open only in the More Joy category.**

Arts New Orleans believes that all citizens should be able to participate in a creative life and that the arts drive a vibrant and equitable community. All people, their culture, and their art contribute to the meaning and understanding of our humanity and should be honored and celebrated. We are proud of the broad range of arts and cultural activities supported by the CAG Program made possible by the City of New Orleans.

More Joy

More Joy grants are available to support groups engaging the New Orleans community through parading, public performance, and other free, street-based activities that have roots in or pay homage to the street parading culture of New Orleans. These are activities typically done by Black Masking Indians/Mardi Gras Indians and Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs. **More Joy grants are \$3,000.**

Applicants in the More Joy category must be a nonprofit organization incorporated with the Louisiana Secretary of State and domiciled in Orleans Parish but DO NOT need to have 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION LIMIT

ELIGIBILITY CHART

TYPE OF APPLICANT – <u>MUST BE DOMICILED IN ORLEANS PARISH</u>	MORE JOY
Nonprofit arts organizations with 501c3 status from the IRS	✓
Nonprofit organizations with 501c3 status from the IRS (not arts focused)	✓
State Incorporated nonprofit organizations without 501c3 status from the IRS and with a fiscal agent	✓
State Incorporated nonprofit organizations without 501c3 status from the IRS and without a fiscal agent	✓

More Joy grant requests must be \$3,000. Grant awards will be \$3,000.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026 at 11:59pm

Applications must be submitted through Arts New Orleans' online grants system (Submittable) at <https://artsneworleans.submittable.com/submit> by **June 12, 2026**. The application will close at 11:59pm. After completion, we recommend downloading a PDF copy of your application, although you will always have access to it via your Submittable account. Applications can be submitted early, as soon as the application opens in May.

GRANT WORKSHOPS

Arts New Orleans will host two workshops, one online and one in-person, covering grant eligibility requirements, the application process, and tips on submitting a competitive application. Workshop attendance is recommended for first-time applicants and anyone currently without a grant through this program.

ONLINE WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

10am – 11am

[REGISTER HERE](#)

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP – 1474 N BROAD ST

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4pm – 5pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The online workshop will be recorded and made available on our [YouTube page](#) for those who can't attend.

APPLICATION SUPPORT SESSIONS

Arts New Orleans will host two drop-in application support sessions, one online and one in person, where applicants can stop by to have any questions answered and chat with our Grantmaking Specialist.

IN-PERSON SUPPORT SESSION – 1474 N BROAD ST

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

4pm – 5pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ONLINE SUPPORT SESSION

Thursday, June 4, 2026

11am – 12pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

PREPARING THE GRANT APPLICATION

PLANNING THE PROPOSAL

1. Review the intent of the Community Arts Grants Program. Is this the appropriate funding source for your organization or activity?
2. If new to this program, attend one of the info sessions listed on the previous page.
3. Contact Arts New Orleans' Grantmaking Specialist at grants@artsneworleans.org about your proposal or attend an application support session if you need assistance.

FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read these guidelines fully before calling staff with questions.
2. **Please review the application before working on it.** Start working on the application as soon as possible to become familiar with the online system. Test filling out pages of your online application well before the deadline to avoid last-minute technical problems. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE OR THE FINAL DAY TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.** Plan to submit your application a few days before the deadline.
3. Review the evaluation criteria in these guidelines for the grant category in which you are applying. Keep the published criteria in front of you as you write your narrative and answer questions on the application form.
4. Answer all questions on the application form.
5. Attachments are required. You are also strongly encouraged to provide media samples.

WRITING

1. Assume that the grant review panelist knows nothing about your organization's operations or your project outside what is stated in the application. You should answer all questions thoroughly, be specific, and include facts.
2. Avoid using jargon. Write in simple, straightforward language.
3. Be consistent. In the More Joy category, the budget, narrative, and provider of service forms should all relate.
4. It takes time to develop a strong proposal. Please give yourself ample time to write your narrative. Please do not wait until the last minute to write your grant application. Proofread, rewrite, proofread!
5. Have people who know nothing about your operations or project and are familiar with grant writing read your draft. Does it make sense to them? Then have people who were involved in the planning read it. Does the description reflect the intent of your project or your operations? Does it address the evaluation criteria?

HOW FUNDING DECISIONS ARE MADE

Grant review panels make the funding recommendations. Comprised of community volunteers who represent the City's ethnic, demographic, and geographic diversity, panels also embody the artistic, community, and administrative expertise needed for application review. Policies are in place to avoid a conflict of interest in the panel review process.

- ❑ An employee of an applicant organization is not allowed to serve on a review panel for a grant category in which their organization will be reviewed.
- ❑ A panelist with a close affiliation with an applicant that could be viewed as a conflict of interest cannot participate in reviewing that application.
- ❑ A panelist who is a board member of an applicant organization (or whose spouse is a board member) cannot participate in the review of that application.

Nonvoting representatives may also participate on Community Arts Grants review panels as appointed by members of the New Orleans City Council, the Mayor's Office, and the Chief Administrative Office. Panel discussions take place virtually. Beginning August 2026, applicants may email Collins Cox at grants@artsneworleans.org to set up a time to find out whether they have been recommended to receive a grant and to hear panel comments.

The review panel's recommendation for 2027 Community Arts Grants will be presented to the Mayor, Chief Administrative Office, and the City Council for final approval as part of the City's 2027 budget process in late 2026. Community Arts Grants are contingent upon Arts New Orleans' receipt of anticipated funds from the City of New Orleans.

MORE JOY CATEGORY

The More Joy category supports incorporated nonprofit organizations producing or celebrating the New Orleans' Street Parading traditions usually created by New Orleans indigenous cultural groups, for example, Black Masking Indians or Mardi Gras Indians and Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs. These funds seek to promote the continued success of street parades, examine the cultural legacies behind these local traditions, educate children under age 18 in specific traditions, and generally bring More Joy to the neighborhoods of New Orleans via the street parade. Exhibitions, workshops, and other presentations dedicated to the street parading traditions of New Orleans are also eligible for funding. **Grants of \$3,000 will fund activities from January 1 - December 31, 2027.** PLEASE NOTE: While the grant activity period is the 2027 calendar year, grant funds are usually available by May. If funds are essential for activities, events should be scheduled between June and December.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Black Masking Indians or Mardi Gras Indians who parade in the public right of way, in Orleans Parish, on Mardi Gras Day, St Joseph's Night, Super Sunday, or other specific dates
- Social Aid and Pleasure Club parades that take place in Orleans Parish
- Non-motorized parades in the public right of way based around a specific holiday, tradition, or event that take place in Orleans Parish
- Exhibits, workshops, and presentations dedicated to the street parading traditions of New Orleans

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE INELIGIBLE?

- Mardi Gras-style parades featuring motorized floats/tractors
- Parades created to promote a specific product or brand
- Parades not licensed or permitted by the City of New Orleans

HOW CAN MORE JOY FUNDS BE USED?

- Artist/Musician Fees
- Materials
- Permitting Fees
- Marketing and Publicity
- Teachers, instructors, or educators versed in the parading traditions or building Black Masking Indian or Mardi Gras Indian suits

GRANT AMOUNT

More Joy grant awards are \$3,000. Please make sure your grant request is \$3,000.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants **MUST BE** either:

- A nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service domiciled in Orleans Parish
- A nonprofit organization incorporated with the State of Louisiana and domiciled in Orleans Parish
- A nonprofit organization incorporated with the State of Louisiana using a fiscal agent (not required) domiciled in Orleans Parish.
- **All applicants must have an organizational bank account to receive grant payments or have a fiscal agent to receive funds on their behalf.**

FISCAL AGENT POLICY FOR MORE JOY

For More Joy, organizations lacking 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status may choose to use a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status from the IRS to serve as a fiscal agent for the grant. Organizations serving as fiscal agents must also be domiciled in Orleans Parish. Fiscal agents may not serve as a service provider for the applicant's proposed activities. Though not required to provide financial support for the proposed project, a fiscal agent assumes legal and financial responsibility for the applicant's grant. For this reason, groups applying with a fiscal agent should draft an agreement outlining the terms of the grantee/fiscal agent relationship.

An organization serving as a fiscal agent for a grant must comply with generally accepted accounting procedures. The accounting system should separate these grant funds from other revenues, and records should identify them as funds to be used by the sponsored grantee's activities.

Fees requested or paid to a fiscal agent may not exceed \$200 of Community Arts Grant funds. A nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status may serve as a fiscal agent for as many nonprofit organizations as it can manage if funded.

WHAT TO SUBMIT WITH YOUR MORE JOY APPLICATION

The following documents must be attached to your grant application:

- ❑ All applicants are required to provide supplemental materials with their applications. These may include brochures, programs, reviews, work samples, letters of support, etc. Choose documents that will strengthen your application. Up to five documents may be uploaded. Please include recent materials.
- ❑ All applications are required to provide photos; up to five may be provided. Video links are optional but encouraged.
- ❑ State of Louisiana Secretary of State letter of good standing listing the applicant as a nonprofit corporation domiciled in Orleans Parish (This document is free. Visit <https://www.sos.la.gov/> and click [Search for Louisiana Business Filings](#) under "Business Services" to search for your organization's name. Once located, click the details button to the right, then click 'print detailed report' to save as a PDF and upload. The document must show your organization (or fiscal agent) is domiciled in Orleans Parish, is a nonprofit corporation, and is currently in good standing. It must also like the most recent address as indicated on the Annual Report filed with the Secretary of State.)
- ❑ If applicable or for Fiscal agents, proof of federal nonprofit tax-exempt status under code 501(c)(3) from the IRS (attach a PDF of an IRS letter determining nonprofit tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3)).

MEDIA SAMPLES

Applicants are **encouraged** to provide media samples. Applicants can provide two media links, such as YouTube and Vimeo, **OR** upload two media files in mp3 or mp4 format. **PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN YOUR SAMPLES ARE ACCESSIBLE AND ARE NOT PASSWORD-PROTECTED.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MORE JOY

The grant review panel will use the following criteria to evaluate More Joy applications:

- ❑ **Cultural Relevance (40%)** – Recognition, education, and celebration of indigenous cultures and local traditions as reflected through a track record of successful programming/services
- ❑ **Artistic Quality (30%)** – The artistic excellence and value of the programs/services that the organization offers to its community, and their contribution to the understanding or appreciation of the traditions.
- ❑ **Need and Impact (30%)** – How the organization's programs and services are fulfilling a need for its community and how impactful those programs are.

COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

Use of Grant Credit Line & Logo

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge the grant at public presentations; in printed, electronic, and broadcast promotion and advertising; and in published programs that accompany events by including the following credit line and logos:

This program is supported in part by a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans and administered by Arts New Orleans.



Grant Notification, Contract, and Payment Schedule

Applicants will be notified of panel funding recommendations in June. Applicants recommended for funding will receive preliminary recommendation letters. Awards are not official until Community Arts Grant recommendations are approved as part of the 2027 City of New Orleans budget and the Mayor signs the official budget. Grant award letters will be sent to grant recipients via Submittable after funding confirmation from the City of New Orleans in December 2026.

Grant contracts will be distributed via Submittable. Arts New Orleans must receive a signed and completed contract before any funds are disbursed. Grant contracts must be completed in Submittable by January 31, 2027.

First-time grantees, project directors, and grant managers are encouraged to attend the compliance workshop. Grantees must also be In Good Standing with the Louisiana Secretary of State for payments to be disbursed.

All grant revenue must be used within the allowable grant activity period, January 1 – December 31, 2027. No extensions will be granted. Funds not expended by the end of the activity period must be returned to Arts New Orleans.

Grant payments will be made by direct deposit into the grantee's (or fiscal agent's) account. Grants will be made in two payments. The first payment is 75% of the grant award. The first payment will be made after Arts New Orleans receives funds from the City of New Orleans and after receipt and approval of the grantee's contract. **City funding may not be received until April of the grant year, and initial payments may not be made until May.** Please plan accordingly. Grantees must plan for proper cash flow as they must spend the entire grant award amount by the end of the activity period, including the 25% of the grant not yet received. The final 25% grant payment is made as a reimbursement. **The final report must indicate that 100% of the grant was spent.**

Standards for Financial Management

Grantees and organizations serving as fiscal agents for a grant must comply with generally accepted accounting procedures. Accounting systems should separate grant funds from other revenues, and records should identify the use of funds for grant-supported activities. Grantees must retain grant records for three years from the date of the final report or until all audit findings involving the records have been resolved, whichever is longer.

Final Report

Grant recipients are required to complete a final report via a Submittable form provided by Arts New Orleans. As part of final reports, grantees must describe the activities that took place, how they spent the funds, provide documentation of proper credit acknowledgement, and upload a few high-quality photographs of grant-sponsored activities into the online system.

Grant Monitoring

Arts New Orleans staff make efforts to attend grant-supported programs. Grant recipients must provide two complimentary tickets for sponsored programs for which admission is charged. Complimentary tickets should be mailed to Arts New Orleans, P.O. Box 58379, New Orleans, LA 70158.

Grant-sponsored event notifications are requested at least a few weeks before the activity. Please send an email informing and inviting grants@artsneworleans.org to support events. Please also notify the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and Chief Administrative Officer about grant-sponsored events and progress in programs.

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES DEFINITIONS

Dance – Dance grants assist nonprofit organizations in making quality dance programs accessible to the public and encouraging innovation in dance as an art form.

Design Arts - Design Arts promote excellence in architecture; landscape architecture; urban design; historic preservation and planning; interior design; industrial design; graphic design; and fashion design. This program provides an opportunity for visual arts and design professionals to collaborate on projects involving design practice, media, theory, research, and education about design.

Folklife - Folklife refers to traditions practiced within a community that has been passed down informally over time and not learned through workshops, classes, or magazines. Folklife includes performing traditions (music, dance, storytelling) and traditional arts and crafts (occupational, festive, and foodways traditions).

Literature- Literature grants are designed to support activities that present the literary arts to the public and promote works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction.

Media - Grants in this discipline provide financial assistance to developing film, video, radio, or other new media activities.

Multidisciplinary - Multidisciplinary grants provide support for arts activities involving more than one discipline.

Music - Music grants assist organizations sponsoring music programming or the presentation and development of musicians, composers, or music ensembles and orchestras in all genres, including band, chamber, choral, ethnic, jazz, new, opera, orchestral, popular, and solo/recital.

Theater - Theater grants help support high-quality dramatic and musical theater available to the public or support the development of nonprofit professional and community theater, puppetry, mime, and storytelling.

Visual Art and Crafts - Visual Arts and Crafts grants support creation or programming activities. Project activities may focus on areas such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, glass, ceramics, fiber, metal, mixed media, and art in public places.